Hafa Adai!

Over 3,000 take part in Red Cross Walkathon. PAGE 3
$1.2M OK'd for salaries of Tinian municipal employees. PAGE 6

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 74

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY APRIL 16, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

$20K bail for poker rob suspect

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gabayeron

The Superior Court set a bail of $20,000 yesterday for a woman who allegedly robbed a poker arcade and threatened a woman at knifepoint.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed the cash bail of $20,000 on Artemia Gabayeron, 51.

Gabayeron is facing multiple charges, including robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Gabayeron is scheduled to return to court on April 24 for a preliminary hearing and on April 29 for an arraignment.

During the bail hearing yesterday, Office of the Attorney General's

See BAIL on Page 4

Greg Elliott, second right, poses for a photo with Bridge Capital LLC chief executive officer John Baldwin, right, after bagging the Best in Show award and second place award in the painting/open category of Bridge Capital's 9th annual art competition.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Consent judgment vs IPI approved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has approved the consent judgment that requires Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. and its subsidiary, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, to pay the U.S. Department of Labor a total of $3.36 million to resolve a labor lawsuit filed by Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta.

RELATED NEWS
- Propst: Post story about Trump gala is troubling. **PAGE 4**

In the consent judgment she signed last Thursday, Manglona said the court shall retain jurisdiction Each party shall bear its own attorney's fees and other expenses.

The parties filed in court last

See CONSENT on Page 4

Judy Torres is acting MVA chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce has appointed MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres as acting managing director, effective today, Tuesday.

Christopher Concepcion's resignation as MVA managing director became effective last Friday.

Since Torres is off-island, MVA community project manager Martin Duenas served as acting managing director yesterday.

Concepcion turned in his resignation last March 12. He became the managing director in April 2016.

Concepcion said he will start his new job in the next

See TORRES on Page 4

HS art teacher wins two awards in Bridge Capital's competition

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Marianas High School art teacher won two awards at the annual Bridge Capital LLC art competition at the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival over the weekend with a single piece that bagged him the Best in Show award for the whole competition.

Greg Elliott won two categories at the 9th Annual Bridge Capital art competition with his piece, called "The Passage," which combines both abstract and realism techniques that ultimately bagged him second place in the Open Painting category and the Best in Show category of the competition.

All in all, Elliott walked away with a total of $3,500 in winnings.

"I have 5-year-old twins and they are expensive to send to school, so I'll hand over that money to my wife… to take care of the family," he said, laughing. "I might splurge a little bit and buy a watch, I don't know."

Elliott noted that this was his third time to enter the art competition.

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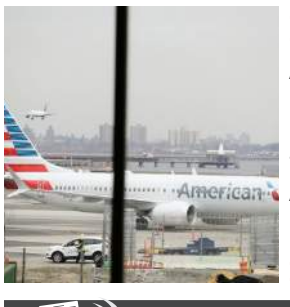
INSIDE



BUSINESS
American Airlines is canceling its Boeing 737 Max aircraft flights through mid-August.

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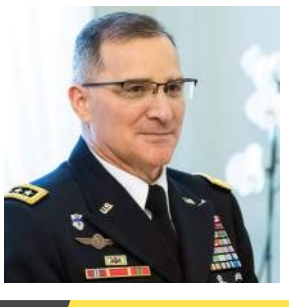

WORLD
The chill in U.S.-Russian relations is stirring concern that it has the makings of a new Cold War.

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LIFE & STYLE
Everyone in Britain is trying to guess the name of Prince Harry and Meghan's first child.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CCAC sees highest number of artist participation at FTAF

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Most Commonwealth artists participated in this year's edition of one of the longest-running festivals in the Micronesia, the Flame Tree Arts Festival, over the weekend, according to the Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture

CCAC executive director Parker Yobei noted that this year's 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center Park in Susupe had the highest number of artists participating that he has ever seen.

"I don't know if it's the fee that we waived…or if they are getting active and getting back into their art," he said. "I hope that they come back and continue [their art production], not only for the Flame Tree festivals but for our other events within the year with our schools and the community," he said.

In all, Yobei recalls about 65 to 70 artists participating in this year's festival.

"Some came in late, a couple pulled out, but somebody took their place," he said. "Every slot this year was filled."

Some of those who pulled out did not have enough pieces to exhibit in the festival. "Hopefully we'll get everyone to join the festival next year," Yobei said.

This year's festival was dedicated to eight artists who have passed away since last year's Flame Tree Arts Festival.

"We are definitely going to miss their presence and their talent. I've known some of them and…worked with some of them," Yobei said. One of those who recently passed away worked with Yobei on several projects. "It's more of a personal thing for me, not just from an artist's [perspective]," he said.

The festival ran from April 11 to April 14, 2019, and concurrently ran with the the first-ever MyMarianas Paradise Festival, which featured several performers from off-island, including South Korean boy band Ulala Session, who won the 2011 Superstar K3 Talent Show; solo singer Huh Gak, who won the Superstar K2 Talent Show; solo singer Yi Xin Wang, who won the QQ Singer Competition in China; and *America's Got Talent* Season 8 winner Kenichi Ebina.

A taekwondo exhibition at the Flame Tree Arts Festival. ERWIN ENCINARES

Cultural dancers prepare for their performance backstage. ERWIN ENCINARES

Woodwork was popular during the festival. ERWIN ENCINARES

Artists exhibits several sketches and paintings. ERWIN ENCINARES

Food was one of the many highlights if the festival. ERWIN ENCINARES

Several island crafts were on sale. ERWIN ENCINARES

Island medicine concoctions were also available. ERWIN ENCINARES

Over 3,000 take part in Red Cross Walkathon

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By the count of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, over 3,000 walkers swarmed the area near the 4H building in Susupe last Saturday to take part in the 2019 American Red Cross Walkathon, while other suggests a number closer to 3,500 participants.

The Red Cross signature fundraising event dwarfed the almost 2,000 walkers last year, according to ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh.

"For sure there were 3,000 participants. You include all the parents who came out and brought their children, so there is over 3,000 people who came to the event," Hirsh said.

He later clarified that the organization printed about 3,000 shirts for the event, all of which were sold. Costing $20 each, the organization raised a minimum of $60,000 in T-shirt sales alone, although the amount is still unconfirmed.

Hirsh noted that final tallies would conclude soon after.

"The money goes back to the island," Hirsh said. "We use this money to help people who are burned out of their homes in the middle of the night and provide financial assistance for them; help build capacity for our volunteers and provide training for them; and we provide all the other services that the American Red Cross has, whether it is health and safety training, learning-to-swim programs, and more," he said.

Most of the walkathon participants were students and their parents.

After the walkathon, the organization also held a health fair right next to the Guma Sakman in Susupe, which also acted as the walkathon's starting point.

Services offered at the fair included blood pressure readings, educational activities, blood sugar readings, face painting booths, and many more activities.

Booths set up included the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club, the Marianas Health Services, Diabetes Coalition, Domestic Violence Coalition, and many more such as the Division of Public Health Services, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and the Community Guidance Center, to name a few.

"[These organizations] knew that there would be several people here today, so this was a good opportunity for them to do their outreach," he said.

Judge OKs US govt request for $600K purchase of 2 fuel tanks

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter has approved the U.S. government's request for a project with a budget of $600,000 to purchase, ship, and install two horizontal cylindrical tanks for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, on Saipan.

This project will replace the current corroded horizontal cylindrical tanks with new shop-fabricated tanks of 20,000-gallon capacity each.

Carter said the two newly installed horizontal cylindrical tanks are expected to be fully functional at the completion of the CUC project.

The project will be funded by Court Registry Account.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior trial attorney Bradley R. O'Brien informed the court last Friday that work on the project will be done by the court-appointed Engineering and Environmental Management Company.

O'Brien said the U.S. government, CUC, and the CNMI government proposed that the project will be funded through the Court Registry Account.

He said Power Plant 4 bulk fuel storage for diesel oil used in power generation is facilitated by four aboveground storage tanks set within a common secondary containment (tank farm) upslope from Power Plant 4.

Within the tank farm, he said, there are two vertical cylindrical tanks and two horizontal cylindrical tanks.

O'Brien said Carter inspected these tanks during the January 2019 status conference. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PALM SUNDAY
Churchgoers at the Kristo Rai Parish make their way toward the Garapan Fishing Base last Sunday afternoon as part of the Catholic Church's Palm Sunday ritual. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
ERWIN ENCINARES

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Propst: *Post* story about Trump gala is troubling

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) labeled as "extremely troubling" a recent *Palm Beach Post* story alleging thousands of dollars that were raised at the Asian Pacific American Presidential Inaugural Gala—one of the inauguration balls of President Donald J. Trump in January 2017—ending up untraced.

The event reportedly raised $107 million in donations from individuals and corporate contributions but what made the event controversial, as reported by *Post*, was there's no paper trail on the money collected and it could not be found.

Among the corporate donors that dropped as much as $25,000 is Saipan casino investor Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, with the Republican Party of Guam also contributing the same amount as sponsors.

Lobbyist Jason Osborne, who helped in lobbying for the passage and signing into law of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act last year, was also mentioned as among the chief organizers of the event. He is also a former campaign aide of Trump.

Propst said the incident is akin to the CNMI's case when it got tangled up with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff during the garment factory days.

"This is extremely troubling. What an embarrassment to the Commonwealth. We are having flashbacks of Jack Abramoff. When will we ever learn? It seems laws do not exist when it comes to the rich and powerful," he said.

Propst plans to urge House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and his colleagues in the House of Representatives to consider conducting an oversight hearing on this matter.

He added that Osborne is being paid by public funds as the CNMI government's representative in Washington, D.C., while also employed as the lobbyist for the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. Osborne is also the executive director of the local GOP here.

"[Osborne] has many intersecting and overlapping interests and I have serious doubts about his ability to represent the Commonwealth's best interests as well. And, frankly, I think we should scrutinize all of his lobbyist filings and see what else he may have omitted," Propst said.

The other sponsorship packages for the APA Presidential gala was Platinum ($10,000), Gold ($5,000), and Elite ($2,500).

Philip Mendiola-Long of Bridge Investment Group LLC and Elaine Cruz Jones of Jones and Guerrero Co. Inc. were among the platinum sponsors from Saipan, along with the Chinese Americans for Trump Movement's Ben and King Tang, P.H.R. Ken Micronesia Inc., and Guam Shipyard's Matthew Pothen.

Elaine Jones & Family, Lee Properties, Kaji & Associates, Lisa Shin of the Korean-Americans for Trump and Derek Uejara of Uehara Financial Group LLC were the gold sponsors, while elite donors were Earl Wong, Claire Reiss, Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP Attorneys at Law, Universal Chinese Publishing House, Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, and former Docomo Pacific chief executive officer Jonathan Kriegel.

IPI has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune* inquiries as of press time.

LIBRARY MONTH
Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig signs the Library Month proclamation last Friday morning at the Kanoa Resort Latte Room.
ERWIN ENCINARES

See story on Page 5

BAIL

From Page 1

Frances Demapan proposed an initial bail of $100,000 because of the nature of the offense, the amount of evidence against Gabayeron, the effect her actions had on the victim, and because Gabayeron allegedly poses a threat to the community.

Chief public defender Doug Hartig, representing Gabayeron, said that, although the Commonwealth made some good points, Gabayeron is not a flight risk and the bail amount should be reduced because she is unemployed.

Gabayeron, who works at a Susupe hotel, was put on administrative leave at her job after news of her alleged crime spread in news outlets.

Court information mentions that a human resources representative from the hotel helped police identify Gabayeron through photos from the surveillance footage, confirming that it was, in fact, Gabayeron and directed police to Gabayeron's residence in As Terlaje.

Aside from identification by her employer, Gabayeron was also identified by the victim in a six-person lineup.

Gabayeron was allegedly caught on surveillance footage robbing the Royal Poker gaming arcade in Oleai last Thursday. Gabayeron was reportedly seen entering the arcade and leaving after robbing the cashier of exactly $649.

The suspect allegedly walked into the establishment between 6:30am and 6:45am after security had left and made sure that there were no other people inside the establishment before proceeding with the robbery.

The suspect called the cashier for assistance first before forcing her way into the cashier's area and holding the cashier at knifepoint.

A short struggle occurred before the suspect was able to open the cash register and grab a handful of cash valued at $649.

The suspect then fled the establishment, going south toward Oleai.

Gabayeron was apprehended two days later at her home.

CONSENT

From Page 1

Thursday a draft consent judgment, which the judge then approved.

Manglona said this consent judgment represents a full, final, and complete judicial resolution of all claims alleged against two companies (IPI collectively) in Acosta's complaint.

The $3.36 million is composed of $1,580,000 in back wages of the workers, another $1,580,000 in liquidated damages, and $200,000 in civil monetary penalties.

IPI has already paid U.S. Labor $300,000; the rest will be paid off in three installments as part of the consent judgment.

The accounting firm Burger, Comer, and Magliari has been appointed as an independent monitor to monitor IPI's compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and the terms of the consent judgment.

Acosta filed the lawsuit last week following an investigation on IPI's casino construction project in Garapan from Jan. 22, 2016, to Dec. 19, 2017, which revealed violations of the FLSA caused by IPI contractors' failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, as well as maintain records required by the FLSA.

TORRES

From Page 1

couple of months.

"I need a break," he said, without elaborating.

During his tenure with MVA, Concepcion and his team managed to accomplish several major projects, including securing direct air service from Japan via Skymark Airlines Inc.

A source said Concepcion may still be working with the government that deals with tourism revitalization project.

Another source said the Torres administration is looking at either of two persons who are frontrunners to be the next managing director.

TEACHER

From Page 1

He submitted his first entry back in 2011 and won Best of Show for that year as well. His second entry was submitted in 2014.

This time, Elliott submitted two paintings that featured combinations of both abstract and realism but only one entry won awards. Both pieces took at least two weeks to finish.

"…To win two prizes for the same painting is pretty amazing," he said. "I couldn't be [happier]."

Earlier that day, Bridge Capital contacted him to inform him of his second-place win but not about his Best in Show prize.

Bridge Capital chief executive officer John Baldwin noted in an interview that this year's submissions were the highest number they've ever had. Over 340 artists participated.

"The artists of the island seem to be getting more talented and I believe this is because of the emergence of younger people," he said. "They are getting more interested [in art]."

"We want to give the artists of the island a chance to show their work, show their talent, and reward them for their ability to produce and present [artworks]," he added.

The competition had eight categories in all, depending on the type of art submitted.

In the 11-and-under category, Alyssa Kim's "The Paradise" won the first-place prize of $750, while Alvin Han's "Legend of Saipan" painting won the second-place prize of $500.

In the student category, Romel Mendoza's oil painting called, "Know Your Roots" won the first place prize of $1,500, while Chengsi Bao's oil painting called, "Dancing Lady" won her the second-place prize of $1,000.

In the woodwork and mixed-media category, Ireneo David's acrylic painting on wood called, "Day and Night" won him the first-place prize of $1,500, while Michael Finey's woodwork entry called "Tree of Life-First Breadfruit" won second place earning him $1,000.

In the photography category, Francisco Deleon Guerrero's "Portal to the Sky" won the first-place prize of $1,500, while Myla Deet's photo, the "Bwa'angfisch," won the second-place prize of $1,000.

Deleon Guerrero said that this was his first time to join the competition.

"…When my mom found out that I won first place, she blew up. She really hit me hard and said [I told you so]," he said. "…I am just very excited about this win."

Deleon Guerrero snapped a photo from within a hidden cave at the Forbidden Island looking outward. He then retouched the colors to give it a surreal look, he said.

Elliott's "The Passage" was bested by Veronica Mendez's oil painting in the painting category, earning her $1,500.

Jose Roberto "Obet" Aguilar's "Gem of the Marianas," a mixed-media piece, won him $500 as he bagged the Community Choice award, while Ireneo David's painting called the "Bonding Home," earned him $1,000 as he bagged the Governor's Choice award.

Bridge Capital purchased some of the artworks, according to Baldwin. The company automatically keeps the winning artworks by default.

Sablan: More transparency in govt's finances

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) wants the Legislature to have a clearer picture of the financial state of the CNMI government. To that end, she wishes the Torres administration would give out more concrete information about the CNMI's fiscal state.

She also has a list of questions that she has for the administration once the House Ways and Means Committee, of which she is a member, begins going over the administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 2020.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has identified $233.22 million in gross budgetary resources that the government expects to collect next fiscal year—a 9.7-percent drop from the $258.14 million budget last fiscal year.

"We're looking to start the budget hearings in May. Committee chair Blanco has asked the members to closely study the budget proposal, and start documenting and taking notes. I'm listing some of the questions that I have for the administration. So, we're ready as soon as the hearing starts," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. Blanco refers to committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan).

Sablan is one of the minority members of the committee, which helps shape the CNMI government's budget every fiscal year.

Two highly destructive storms—Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu—hit the CNMI in a one-month span last year, gravely affecting economic activity on the islands, especially on Saipan where tourism was at a standstill for almost two months.

Sablan said Blanco had asked committee members to go over the budget plan with a fine-toothed comb.

She said the Finance Department has yet to update the committee on the financial state of affairs of the government in general. "Specifically, for the special casino gross revenue tax account. That's one of the questions that the committee submitted to Finance over a month ago. As of Friday, we had not received any update on the current status of that account."

Sablan used House Bill 21-37, which would re-appropriate $1.2 million from Public Law 20-62 Section 2(c)(2) to fund the salaries of municipal employees on Tinian, as an example. "Last year, the money was available and appropriated for a Tinian road project. But a lot of things had happened since then. We know money has been moving around between accounts, so I wanted to see some verification in writing that those funds are still there for Tinian's proposal."

"To me, it wasn't reassuring that all we have are verbal assurances that it is there. It should be there because Tinian has not touched the money yet for the road project. We know that, even in the Legislature, funds had disappeared from our own accounts. So, I think we need some timely, accurate, and truthful reports from Finance on the state of our financial affairs."

She added that the Legislature needs concrete proof to back up the government's optimism that the local economy would rebound. "I have to say that there are members, like myself, that have questions about that optimism. That collections will improve in the remainder of this fiscal year. But if you talk to members of the business community, particularly in the tourism industry, they don't express that same kind of optimism."

"I think that, if we're looking at bigger cuts and looking at a bigger shortfall, we need some of that information as soon as possible. We need the administration to be honest about that. If there's real basis for the optimism they express, we need to see a much clearer justification and the real plan for how we will operate the government for the next six months. What does this mean for the next [fiscal year 2020] budget?

The problem with the Legislature not getting timely and accurate information has always been a problem, Sablan said.

"That's the perennial frustration of the Legislature. … This is an ongoing frustration dating back many years. Our lack of access to timely and accurate information about our government's finances makes it really difficult for us [lawmakers] to do our job."

"We're supposed to be controlling the government's purse. But how can we do that if we don't have any information about what's actually in that purse? We hope Finance answered all of our questions that Rep. Ralph Yumul, in his capacity as acting Ways and Means chair, sent. And I'm looking forward to seeing it." ***(Jon Perez)***

April is Library Month

The Public School System has declared April as Library Month.

Surrounded by public school librarians from several schools, the Board of Education led by vice chair Herman Atalig signed the proclamation last Friday morning at the Kanoa Resort Latte Room, just before announcing the 2019 Librarian of the Year awardee.

In a speech, Education Commissioner Glenn Muña noted that libraries are essential to a community. He described librarians as "the ultimate search engine of the CNMI."

He said that libraries are loaded with not just information but also with projects pertaining to several improvements such as collection additions, more library programs, and an overall environment for learning.

"You're better than Google," he added. "…You guys are very resourceful despite the limited resources we have on island. You bring those resources to our children, and we thank you all for your hard work."

BOE vice chair Herman Atalig also expressed gratitude to librarians.

"Thank you all for your dedication and commitment [in putting our] students first. Remember that you…are basically the information folks for our students in PSS," he said.

"Libraries should be fun and I think it is fun," he said, adding that librarians hardly get the spotlight for their efforts. "Today, we salute you and honor you, and you are part of the equation of our student's achievements."

Librarians from several PSS schools attended the proclamation signing, including representatives from Kagman Elementary School, William S. Reyes Middle School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Power outage on April 22

There will be an emergency power interruption on April 22, from 2pm to 6pm, affecting Kagman III. The areas include Alageta Road and Puteng Drive in Kagman. No water service area nor wastewater service area will be affected. Utility lines will be de-energized to allow power line workers from Primary Source Electric to perform emergency maintenance on 12 spans of power poles along Alageta Road and Puteng Drive in Kagman.

Meanwhile, water service to Gualo Rai will no longer be interrupted on Thursday, April 18, as a result of the scheduled power interruption to take place along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai, Middle Road.

The Water Division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will use a generator as standby power to the Gualo Rai wells during the scheduled power interruption. ***(PR)***

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Propst: *Post* story about Trump gala is troubling

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Public School System has declared April as Library Month.

Surrounded by public school librarians from several schools, the Board of Education led by vice chair Herman Atalig signed the proclamation last Friday morning at the Kanoa Resort Latte Room, just before announcing the 2019 Librarian of the Year awardee.

In a speech, Education Commissioner Glenn Muña noted that libraries are essential to a community. He described librarians as "the ultimate search engine of the CNMI."

He said that libraries are loaded with not just information but also with projects pertaining to several improvements such as collection additions, more library programs, and an overall environment for learning.

"You're better than Google," he added. "…You guys are very resourceful despite the limited resources we have on island. You bring those resources to our children, and we thank you all for your hard work."

BOE vice chair Herman Atalig also expressed gratitude to librarians.

"Thank you all for your dedication and commitment [in putting our] students first. Remember that you…are basically the information folks for our students in PSS," he said.

"Libraries should be fun and I think it is fun," he said, adding that librarians hardly get the spotlight for their efforts. "Today, we salute you and honor you, and you are part of the equation of our student's achievements."

Librarians from several PSS schools attended the proclamation signing, including representatives from Kagman Elementary School, William S. Reyes Middle School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School.

Power outage on April 22

There will be an emergency power interruption on April 22, from 2pm to 6pm, affecting Kagman III. The areas include Alageta Road and Puteng Drive in Kagman. No water service area nor wastewater service area will be affected. Utility lines will be de-energized to allow power line workers from Primary Source Electric to perform emergency maintenance on 12 spans of power poles along Alageta Road and Puteng Drive in Kagman.

Meanwhile, water service to Gualo Rai will no longer be interrupted on Thursday, April 18, as a result of the scheduled power interruption to take place along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai, Middle Road.

The Water Division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will use a generator as standby power to the Gualo Rai wells during the scheduled power interruption. ***(PR)***

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$1.2M OK'd for salaries of Tinian municipal employees

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed a measure that would re-appropriate $1.2 million that was originally intended to fund five projects on Tinian to pay the salaries of municipal employees.

Rep. Antonio SN Borja (R-Tinian)'s House Bill 21-37 would amend a section of Public Law 20-62 to divert the money from the Tinian projects to pay the salaries of employees of the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipality.

After a lengthy—almost two-hour long—discussion, H.B. 21-37 now heads to the Senate for further action. It garnered a 14-1 vote from all 15 members present when the bill was being discussed on the House floor.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) was the lone House member to vote "no" to the passage of the bill due to some unanswered questions, not only about the bill but the financial state of the CNMI.

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and former Tinian mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas were present at the session and answered questions.

Aldan said the entire CNMI faces grave financial challenge after Super Typhoon Yutu, which is why he implemented belt-tightening measures at the start of his administration.

"I delayed the employment start date of 90 [Tinian] Mayor's Office employees by one month to prepare for the budget cuts that were expected as a result of [Super] Typhoon Yutu," he said. "Although, it is our priority to maintain full payroll for our current municipal employees, we are prepared to implement additional austerity measures if necessary."

He pointed out that the Tinian leadership's decision to appropriate funds for municipal employees is not a new issue and, in fact, funding for the employees for the duration of fiscal year 2019 was appropriated in Tinian Local Law 20-18 (signed Dec. 31, 2018).

That local law appropriated $1 million for Tinian, with $675,000 appropriated for the salaries of municipal personnel. The Department, of Finance however, informed Tinian leaders that the money can't be transferred to the Municipal Treasury without amending P.L. 20-16 and without funds, there won't be money to pay the nearly 60 employees.

The employees are directly under the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Municipal Treasury, and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission. Tinian's funds to pay the salaries of the employees would last only up to the May 10 payroll.

This is why Aldan is asking the Legislature to make an exemption. "Although I am aware that appropriation bills usually detail spending line items, I would like to request that the members of the House allow for maximum flexibility in the bill to provide me the opportunity to use my discretion to prioritize the needs of my municipality."

"Due to the urgency of our funding situation, I am asking the House members to expeditiously pass this bill to avoid my having to furlough any of my local employees," he added.

The $1.2 million allocated for Tinian in P.L. 20-62 was originally intended to fund a road project, personnel, and procurement of vehicles to three agencies in the municipality.

Another $60,000 is reserved for the Office of Aging under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Tinian to purchase one van, while the Division of Building Safety from the Department of Public Works and the Finance Department-Tinian was allocated $25,000 each to procure vehicles.

MARPAC DONATES TO SFA CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ambros and Shimbros vice president Paul Shimizu, right, presents a check to Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver on April 1, 2019, at the MARPAC office in Gualo Rai, Saipan, in support of the SFA's annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby and Saipan International Fishing Tournament. Also pictured is MARPAC resident manager Guy Pudney.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/COTA19-RFP-003

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 3, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for the Construction Management Services for the **Construction of the Commonwealth of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **April 2, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 19, 2019.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 30, 2019**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Project Team – 20%
2. Capacity – 20%
3. Past Performance – 25%
4. Local Knowledge & Proximity to the project – 10%
5. Project Approach- 25%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/COTA19-RFP-003"**. For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 3, 2019** – AND must be received no later than **May 14, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ JOE A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR,
PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority

2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-2682; Fax: (670) 664-2692; Email: alfreda.camacho@gov.mp

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) would like to notify the general public that COTA, has amended its 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan or via email to: alfreda.camacho@gov.mp no later than May 16, 2019, 2:00 pm.

Any questions, please contact Mr. Diego Songsong, COTA Community Planner, at (670)664-2682.
The following are listed in the TIP:

I. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Amended Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY 2017 FEDERAL	FY 2018 FEDERAL	FY 2019 FEDERAL	FY 2020 FEDERAL
	SAIPAN	ALL	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	PE Design	$224,000.00			
				Construction			$3,500,000.00	
				CM			$590,000.00	
	SAIPAN	ALL	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Bus for the Fixed Route				$2,162,292.00	
	SAIPAN		Purchase of four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Van for the Demand Response				$399,980.00	
	SAIPAN		Supply, Installation of Bus Stop Signboard and Construction of COTA Transit (Bus) Pads	Construction	$120,000.00			$30,000.00
	SAIPAN	ALL	Supply, Installation of thirty seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction			$1,009,500.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					**$344,000.00**		**$7,661,772.00**	**$30,000.00**

/S/ Alfreda P. Camacho, Special Assistant for Public Transportation

DLNR eyes free ice for fisherfolk in exchange for data

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is working on an agreement that would give fisherfolk in the CNMI free ice flakes in exchange for data on their daily catch.

Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente said the DLNR wants to both help fisherfolk save money and gather vital marine life information.

According to Benavente, information that CNMI fisherfolk can provide about their daily catch is information that DLNR could use to protect the islands' natural resources.

Information on what kinds of fish are caught regularly is essential data for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, he said, and, with the free ice-fish data swap in place, it would make the process of gathering this information easier.

"This is something we're trying to work with the local fishermen in terms of providing them the ice to keep their fish fresh [while they] give us the data of their catches on a daily basis…because this information is essential to NOAA….and so we can also be knowledgeable on what kind of fish are being caught and what are hard to catch," he said.

The agreement would also give CNMI fisherfolk an opportunity to save money. An average fisherfolk would need about six to 10 bags of ice to maintain the freshness of their catch. With ice going for nearly $2 a bag, the DLNR agreement would help fisherfolk save at least $10 a day, Benavente said.

"We give them all the ice they want, provided this is for the fish and not for personal use. It could be a good day or bad day of catching but, for fishermen who go out daily, that's spending about $10 daily and that's a lot of money. This will be good savings for them," he said.

The department is still working on the agreement itself and the process in which the fisherfolk can get the ice and submit their data.

"We'll be working on [something similar to] a log sheet or data report that they can carry in something waterproof or they can come in and fill out the forms. What we'll do when they come in, we pick up the form," he said.

Benavente said the idea behind the agreement was discussed during the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting back in 2018.

Guam hospital receives additional $2.4M in Medicare funds

TAMUNING, Guam (AP)— A Guam hospital has received a $2.4 million boost in Medicare funds following changes to the amount provided by the federal government for each eligible patient.

Pacific Daily News reported Sunday that the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority received the extra funds after the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services agreed to "rebase" patient rates.

The hospital's administrator says there will be a 26-percent increase in the per diem rate for nightly hospital stays, up to $1,646, effective April 17.

Officials say the hospital expects the new rate will equal about $6 million each year for payments on Medicare, Medicaid and Medically Indigent Program accounts.

Officials say the hospital authority received $6.3 million in January for adjustments to fiscal 2014 to 2016 Medicare cost reports due to the financial restructuring.

Learn about newest efforts to revive coral reef growth in Commonwealth

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management is inviting everyone who may be interested to attend this week's public presentations concerning the CNMI archipelago's corals and climate change.

Two talks will occur this Wednesday evening, April 17, from 5:30pm to 7pm at the American Memorial Park auditorium on Saipan.

■ Status, Trends and Future Outlook for the Corals of the CNMI by Doug Fenner

Saipan's corals have taken a hit, but they are not gone by a long shot. Mass coral bleaching has killed some, but most survived and recovered. Most kinds of corals survived just fine. However, 3 genera had heavy mortality: about 90 percent of *Acropora* died, and two-thirds of *Pocillopora* and *Stylophora* died. Corals can recover from those levels of mortality, but it takes time, maybe around 10 years. Those that survived are likely more temperature-resistant than those that died. It is important to not let crown-of-thorns starfish eat them. It will also be better if there isn't another mass bleaching event for 10 years or more. What can we do? Control crown-of-thorns, push society and governments to act on climate change, reduce other human impacts like fishing, sediments, nutrients, etc.

■ Coral Restoration in the CNMI: The Saipan Coral Nursery Pilot Project at Mañagaha by Lyza Johnston and Steve McKagan

From 2013 to 2017, the CNMI had four major thermal stress and mass bleaching events, resulting in large-scale coral mortality and changes in community composition across the archipelago. Surveys in 2018 revealed a 66-percent reduction in overall coral cover since 2012, with over 90 percent of *Acropora* spp. corals, 75 percent of *Pocillopora* spp., and over 90 percent of staghorn *Acropora* spp. corals lost. It has become clear that active conservation and restoration strategies are urgently needed to maintain coral populations and vital ecosystem functions. Coral colonies that have survived the four, near-onsecutive bleaching events in the CNMI have demonstrated resilience to thermal stress, making them ideal candidates for propagation, culturing, and outplanting to degraded reefs in the face of ongoing ocean warming and environmental change. NOAA Pacific Island Regional Office is working with local contractors and government agencies to establish a pilot ocean nursery for corals in the Saipan lagoon. This project, which is known as the "Saipan Coral Nursery Pilot Project," represents the first effort to develop a coral nursery in the CNMI.

APASEEM is a locally-based nongovernmental, nonprofit, and nonadvocacy organization with a long history of supporting the sharing of new science and science education information and environmental best management practices with the CNMI public. For more information, view its website at www.apaseem.org or contact any of the group's current officers, Roy Adsit (president, roy.adsit@cnmipss.org), Michael Trianni (vice president, mtrianni@ymail.com), Andre Kozij (treasurer, akaspn88@gmail.com) or John Furey (secretary, jfurey.saipan.com@gmail.com or via phone at 670-483-5389. ***(PR)***

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NOW $9,999*

2016 Toyota Prius-C
Mileage: 25,769. 4-door hatchback. 50-mpg city/highway. Stock #U19-006R
NOW $12,999*

2016 Toyota Highlander Limited
Mileage: 26,808. V6, Auto, 2WD. Stock #U18-095R
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$5K reward for arrest and conviction of Guam dog killer

A $5,000 reward is being offered for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for killing a pet dog in Guam.

"Sumo," a gentle 8-year-old blue Doberman, accidentally wandered away from home last Friday, April 12. Within hours, he was found shot dead, less than 200 yards from his home on Lily St (off Alageta St.) in Dededo.

"Sumo was a big brother to my daughter. He was a family member," said Dave Silva, Sumo's owner.

He explained that Sumo had wandered off Friday morning, likely through a gate accidentally left open. Upon realizing he was lost, Sumo's family began a frantic search, only to find he had been shot and killed.

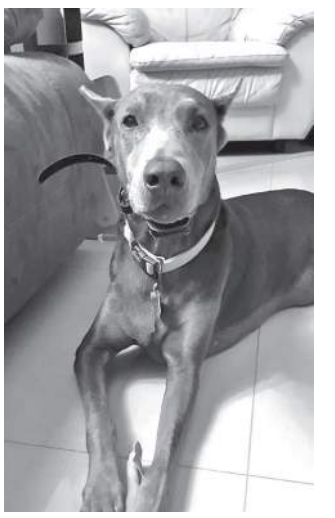
"He was a gentle old dog, just trying to find his way home," said Silva. Sumo was a well-kept dog with a collar.

"He was trained and could do tricks. We took him to the beach, and he socialized regularly with people," Silva added. "He was so close to home. He almost made it back."

A local veterinarian examined Sumo's body, and determined the bullet wounds appear to be from a small caliber weapon, in a body location intended to kill him. Nearby workers heard a dog cry out sometime around midday on Friday.

"We remind everyone that it's illegal to shoot a dog. The only exception is if you're defending your life or livestock against a vicious animal," said Guam Animals in Need board president, Cyrus Luhr. "It's never okay to shoot a dog because it's lost or stray. Wandering away from home shouldn't be a death sentence."

If you have any information on this, call the Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-4357; Dededo Precinct at 632-9808; or Silva at 777-2668. ***(PR)***



Undated file photo shows Sumo relaxing at his owner's home.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam's 'Island Knights' rescue two from sunken ship

ANDERSEN AIR BASE, Guam—The Guam-based "Island Knights" sailors of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 rescued two local spear fishermen after their personal watercraft sank off the east coast of Guam last Thursday.

The men were able to battle the surf and traversed the jagged reef to shore, but were stranded on the cliff line with no avenue of rescue from shore or sea.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam notified HSC-25 of the incident and HSC-25 Search and Rescue led by aircraft commander Lt. Cmdr. Sean Rice recovered the two men via airborne hoist and delivered them to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.

"This rescue highlighted the professionalism and efficiency of the Island Knight Team," said Rice. "We received the report during preflight for a scheduled flight event. Within minutes, our maintenance team had the aircraft ready for an expeditious launch. We were able to proceed to an accurate location provided by the squadron duty officer, where Petty Officer Medlin spotted the survivors within minutes of beginning the search. Lt. Ramos moved the aircraft into a stable hover, allowing Petty Officer Washington to deploy via hoist, rapidly recovering both survivors. They were attended to en route to Naval Hospital Guam by Petty Officer Bowen, where they were turned over a mere thirty minutes after launch."

The incident was the 9th emergency call to HSC-25 by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, the 4th in three weeks, and marks seven recoveries during search and rescue and medical evacuations in 2019.

"I keep saying that I could not be prouder of the Sailors of HSC-25" said commanding officer Cmdr. Frank Loforti. "But every week our Sailors take the squadron to a new level. We have the finest Sailors in the fleet, and I can't thank them enough for ensuring our aircraft are always ready!"

HSC-25 provides a multi-mission rotary wing capability for units in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and maintains a Guam-based 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation capability, directly supporting U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. ***(Amphibious Force 7th Fleet)***

Flight crew and maintainers, assigned to the "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, pose for a photo after a successful rescue of two spear fishermen after their personal watercraft sank off the east coast of Guam.
U.S. NAVY/LCDR SEAN RICE

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Perimeter Security Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than *Friday, April 26, 2019, 5:00 p.m.*, local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 12, 2019

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-018
Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., will be hosting events to celebrate and create awareness on Autism throughout the month.

APRIL 9, 2019 AT 1:00 PM

Autism & CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation Signing at the Governor's Office

April 26, 2019 from 6pm – 10pm

Quiz Nite 8 at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hibiscus Hall
For tickets, please contact NMPASI at 670-235-7275
Ticket Price: $30.00

April 28, 2019 from 3pm-5pm

FREE Hot Dog Walk
at the Last Command Post

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 74

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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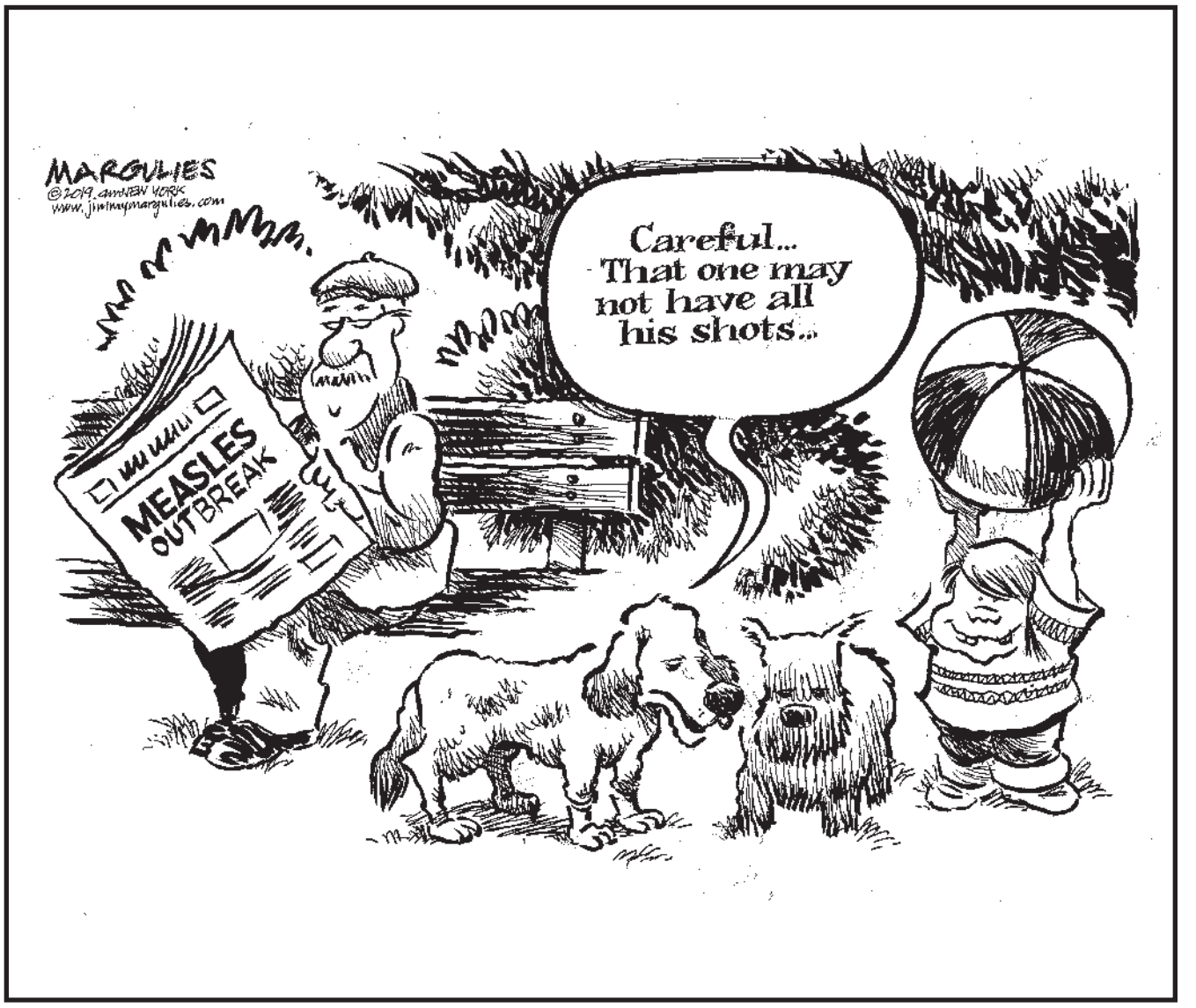

EDITORIAL

Homeland security needs to focus on what matters

When President Trump pushed Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to resign, he said he wanted a "tougher" effort to secure the U.S. southern border. His undue focus on migrants risks diverting energy and resources from bigger threats to national security _ and, incidentally, is making his favorite issue harder to solve.

The primary purpose of the Department of Homeland Security is, well, homeland security. The agency was formed after the Sept. 11 attacks with a mandate to secure the nation against threats. The border issue that preoccupies the president is important, but doesn't rank as a serious threat to national security.

Apprehensions at the border have spiked over the last two months _ but most of the people concerned are asking for asylum, not trying to sneak in. Many of their claims for protection may ultimately be judged invalid, but these arrivals don't merit Trump's description as "some of the roughest people you've ever seen." Undocumented immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated for crimes than native-born Americans, and stories about suspected terrorists hiding among asylum seekers haven't stood up to scrutiny.

The administration's fixation on the politics of migration has compromised other security efforts. Drug prosecutions along the southwest border have plunged. Investigations of organized migrant smuggling have taken a backseat to catching individuals. Sending soldiers to the border has stretched military resources. DHS has diverted funding from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, preparing for natural disasters, and building a badly needed heavy icebreaker for the Coast Guard. And consider the opportunity cost of distracting the head of DHS from paying more attention to cybersecurity, which Nielsen described to Congress last month as possibly "the highest threat that we face in the homeland." There's economic damage too: Redeploying customs inspectors has slowed commerce at ports of entry.

This serious misallocation of effort hasn't even succeeded in the goal Trump set for it. Restricting the number of asylum applicants who can present themselves at ports of entry just prompted more to cross illegally. The shameful policy of separating children from their families was abandoned after an outcry _ and, even while it was in place, it failed.

No question, the U.S. asylum system needs to be fixed, and the border should be made secure. Those goals are best achieved by working with Democrats and America's neighbors, not by seeking to antagonize them for political purposes. Above all, the DHS should get its priorities straight, and remember that its main job is to guard against real threats to the nation's security.

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Why 'tax the rich' demands are so unreasonable

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg's latest book, Suicide of the West, *is now available wherever books are sold. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by e-mail at goldbergcolumn@gmail.com, or via Twitter @JonahNRO.*

If I told you there was a movement to create a navy or air force, you might respond, "Don't we already have those?" If I said we need a movement to convince bears to relieve themselves in the woods, you might say, "Wait. Isn't that happening already?

But if I said we needed to tax the rich, a lot of people's first reaction would be, "Yes! It's about time!"

In fact, there's an astroturf movement based on precisely this notion. There was just a big conference, fittingly named the "Tax the Rich!" conference, hosted by a group called Patriotic Millionaires.

"Tax the Rich. Save America. Yes, it really is that simple," they explain in their mission statement.

This slogan is simply dishonest; rich people do, in fact, pay taxes. Just under half (48 percent) of federal revenue comes from income taxes. If you define the rich as the top 1 percent _ which is probably too narrow, depending on the region of the country _ the rich pay a big chunk of that. In 2016, according to the Tax Foundation, the top 1 percent accounted for 37.3 percent of all income tax revenue, a share that was greater than the bottom 90 percent of all payers of income tax combined. The top half of taxpayers paid 97 percent of income taxes.

The Tax Policy Center estimates that 44 percent of Americans won't pay any federal income taxes for 2018. That doesn't mean they don't pay any taxes, of course. Payroll taxes eat up a big chunk of many Americans paychecks _ a fact we all learn the first time we shout, "Who the hell is FICA!?"

But the income tax is remarkably progressive. Once again citing the Tax Policy Center (a joint project of two left-of-center think tanks: the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute), Americans in the top 20 percent paid an estimated 87 percent of income taxes for 2018. This was up from 84 percent in 2017, which means that the "Trump tax cuts" actually made the tax code more progressive.

The folks shouting "Tax the rich!" know this, which is why, when they move beyond sloganeering, they say that what they really want is for the rich to "pay their fair share." This is a more debatable claim because "fair" is in the eye of the beholder. It's not preposterous to argue that the rich, however defined, should pay a few percentage points more in income tax in the name of fairness. But it's also not preposterous to say that when 1 percent of the people provide more than a third of income tax revenue, they're already paying their fair share _ and suggesting that people who don't want to pay even more are "unpatriotic" is bullying nonsense.

While we're on the topic of fairness, there's another common argument for hiking income taxes for the wealthy, or for even simply taxing wealth itself: The rich deserve it. Or, to be more generous, the super-rich don't deserve their money, while the rest of the country does.

The New York Times' Farhad Manjoo recently argued for "abolishing" billionaires outright. Presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Beto O'Rourke say we should make the rich less rich because income inequality is bad. Candidate Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (and many others) think that everything from Medicare for All to the Green New Deal can be financed largely _ or entirely _ by pillaging the bank accounts of the rich.

This is populist insanity masquerading as public finance. According the Manhattan Institute's Brian Riedl, doubling the top tax brackets (from 35 and 37 percent to 70 and 74 percent) "would close just one-fifth of the long-term Social Security and Medicare shortfall. Even seizing all annual income earned over $500,000 would not come close."

You could literally confiscate 100 percent of the wealth of the entire one percent and not come close to paying for Sanders' version of Medicare for All (price tag: $32 trillion).

This points to my real problem with all of this "tax the rich" talk. It works from the assumption that the problems of ordinary Americans are the result of a tiny group of people selfishly refusing to do their part. Not only does this assume that the wealth of people who have paid considerable taxes still belongs to everyone, it's also simple scapegoating. By my lights, it would be no less outrageous if the math added up. But it doesn't, which makes it even more irresponsible.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hugs are free, but they're not for everybody

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at the University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

I just got back from my weekly trip to the local supermarket. I usually count of the number of items I get, but this week, I also counted hugs.

Hugs are free, no purchase required. One came from a woman I know from the post office, one from a man who retired from teaching, one from a friend who works at the store's deli counter (she took a brief break), one from someone who introduced herself as a reader of the columns and one from a Facebook friend (suddenly live and in person) in the parking lot.

I'm tactile, and touch is one way of the ways I communicate. As is the case with many of my tribe—ethnic types of working-class origin who are too old for work-study and too young for cremation—I'm a sleeve-patter, a wrist-grabber and cheek-kisser. I live in Little Old Lady Land, and five hugs at a familiar venue is fairly typical.

I understand, however, that for many people, touch can be not only a foreign language but one capable of transmitting only aggressive, dehumanizing and scary messages.

About a dozen years ago, I had a student who explained to me that she hated being touched. It made her cringe no matter what its intention. She taught me to ask whether people were comfortable with a hug or even a warm handshake before presuming they were. It was a boundary I needed to see more clearly and a lesson I needed to learn.

So while I continue to offer hugs to students who seem to welcome them, I never foist them upon anyone. I ask first. If you're crying and eating cold pizza in my office, explaining your troubles and seeking advice from me and from the other students who are always there, the gesture seems as reasonable as offering a tissue.

But not everyone interprets it as generosity.

My pal, essayist Barry Dougherty, for example, wishes that "the people going in for the hug would recognize that I'm broadcasting absolute fear from my frozen stance and deer-in-headlights expression, and that this hug of theirs will ruin my day and so perhaps rethink their lovely gesture and just buy me a drink instead."

Kristina Dolce, a teacher whose middle-school kids attach themselves to her like Velcro, knows that even invitations for physical expression need to be framed fairly: "If you're asking with the presumption of a 'yes,' you're not really asking."

That presumption of acceptance is probably where Joe Biden, a politician I have often (if not always) admired, made his mistake. Biden probably imagined that his good intentions were sufficiently transparent and that he would always get the benefit of the doubt, even if he stumbled.

A line often attributed to Mark Twain but actually written by Oliver Wendell Homes, Jr. states that "Even a dog distinguishes between being stumbled over and being kicked."

What Biden missed was that increasing numbers of women are recognizing that when we were on the receiving end of opprobrious touches, we were meant to define them as "harmless," as if harm was defined by the one inflicting the wound and not by the one wounded. We were taught that the unwanted touching, the unsought intimacy, the slimy grasp and the salacious innuendos were to be sloughed off as stumbles, even when our own deepest instincts told us they were deliberate and malicious.

After enough kicks, even a stumble will raise a growl. That, I believe, is the noise Biden is hearing.

I hope that hugging and other expressions of affection and connection remain non-punishable offenses, but we need to discuss them as well as discussing other ways we express even our cheerful responses. As my friend Elizabeth Ruppel counsels, "Try complimenting female colleagues and friends the way you would your male colleagues and friends. If you wouldn't tell Bob his eyes are nice or his outfit is cute, don't say that to Bonnie. And if a woman isn't your significant other, don't guide her into a room with your hand on the small of her back. Women are adult, autonomous humans who don't need to be led and protected in public."

This adult and autonomous human being opens her arms to hugs in hallways and produce aisles but knows you might prefer a wave, a smile, a handshake or, if you're Barry, a beverage. When we see each other, I'll make sure to ask.

April is National Poetry Month

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

National Library Week has passed. Did you hear or read Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' comments on the importance of libraries in our CNMI community? Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan also stressed the importance of libraries as a multiple source of knowledge and education in his proclamation last Monday. Did you go to the library last week? Take your children? Have you checked out a book or used the computers there recently? Have you seen what new books and services are available? I gave a reading of my poetry at the Tinian Public Library proclamation signing last week. April is National Poetry Month. Here are sonnets by me from 2014 and 2018. Enjoy!

Laughter: I am *Luftmensch

I am laughter please do try poetry
full of mirth merriment and beans
with thought of naught but light
and laugh filled lilting shifting scenes
all directions through cerebral space
leading to an event horizon in reverse
where one always escapes insanity
the mundane maudlin inanity or worse
check me out and have no doubt
crack a smile in that face of stone
momentous musical merriment to come
with your friends or home alone
up the long ladder and down the short rope
stay full of laughter, loving life and hope.

**Luftmensch is a Yiddish word, literally airhead, meaning an impractical dreamer.*

Sirius, The Dog Star, Sings in the Big Dog Constellation Canis Major

On the cliffs high above the ocean
starlight shines over Pacific calm
the Milky Way divides the sky
above my head hangs Orion's belt
planets rise slowly in the East
on Mother Earth's spinning wheel
viewed from northern Long Beach
on clear nights across the reef
Jupiter shines on tranquil water
tonight it is clear and easy to see
typhoon season is coming soon
fresh water springs bubble near the shore
a winter hexagram of bright stars
frames Betelgeuse on Orion's shoulder
in the Big Dog constellation Sirius sings.

Pelosi is driving the border crisis

By RICH LOWRY
(c) 2019 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

When historians look back to this era, they will wonder why we insisted on outsourcing our border control to a foreign country.

President Donald Trump's threat to close down the southern border with Mexico isn't a sign of strength, but of frustration fading into desperation.

He is reacting with understandable alarm at a spiraling migrant crisis on the border, and is looking to Mexico to address it because we are unwilling to do it on our own—not unable, unwilling.

There were more than 100,000 apprehensions at the border in March, an increase from the 76,000 in February. The numbers for both months were the highest in 10 years. The total for the fiscal year could hit a million, a historic surge completely overwhelming our capabilities.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen warned Congress of "the real-time dissolution of the immigration system."

It's not that border control has been tried and failed; it hasn't been tried. Thanks to court decrees and congressional enactments, we don't permit ourselves to quickly return minors from Central American countries, or to detain them for any significant period of time. They get released, along with the adults accompanying them.

The asylum process is broken. The initial so-called credible-fear interview to determine whether asylum-seekers get to the next step of the process approves almost all of them, even if they are unlikely ultimately to win asylum. In the meantime, they are waved into the country and probably never removed.

The migrants coming in increasing numbers realize that we are helpless to exclude them and, indeed, surrender to Border Patrol agents when they get here.

Congress could fix all this in an afternoon, with a few key changes in the law. Trump has a Nancy Pelosi problem much more than an Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador problem. But, since Pelosi is unmovable, Trump has to try to work the Mexican president.

The talk of cutting off the border isn't aimed at the migrants, who largely don't come through ports of entry, but at forcing the Mexican government to do more. Maybe the mere threat of the resulting economic disruption will work.

But if Trump goes through with closing the border, the strategy has some of the same weaknesses as the government shutdown earlier this year. Where does it end? If Mexico doesn't act quickly, how long are we going to keep the border closed? The longer it's closed, the more pain will be felt in the U.S. economy at a time when there are already signs of softness. What if Mexico initially buckles, then backslides? Will we shut down the border again, or threaten to?

It's insane that a sovereign country of unparalleled power has tied its own hands such that it must try to bully and cajole a foreign nation to do immigration enforcement for it.

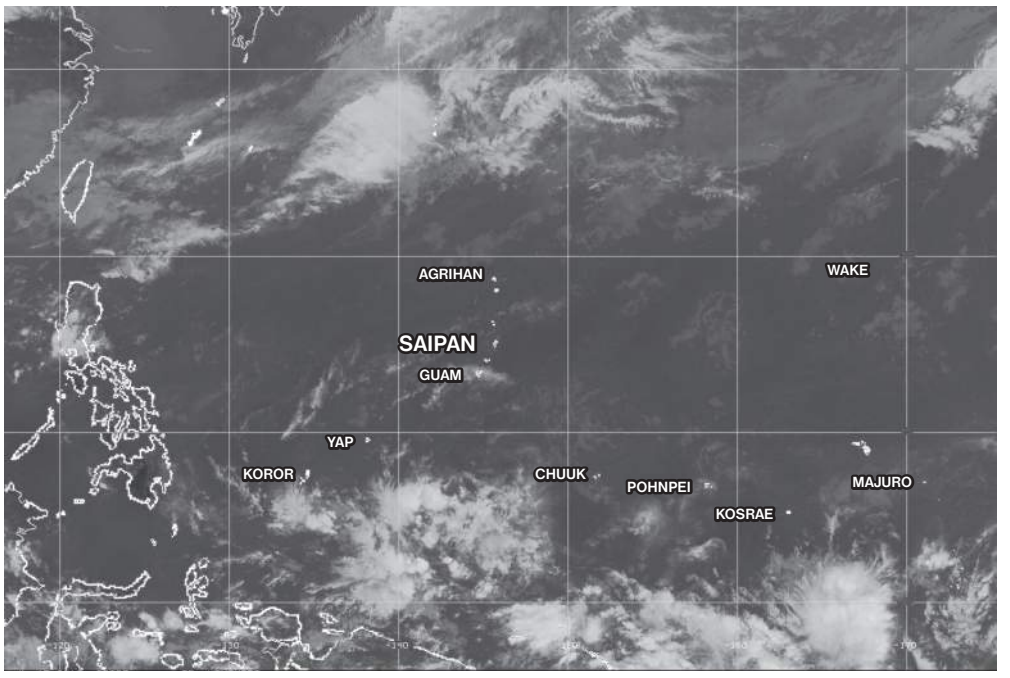
In a more rational world, Congress would take seriously the spectacle of U.S. officials—and humanitarian organizations—scrambling to handle a flood of humanity showing up every day, and give them the legal authorities and resources to get the situation under control. That it won't is a dereliction of duty of the highest order.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 77°	88° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:01 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trade winds will occasionally be fresh today, then will prevail most of this week. Combined seas of 5 to 7 feet will diminish to between 4 and 6 feet by Thursday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	86° / 57°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
London	Cloudy	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Windy	84° / 54°
Miami	Sunny	79° / 73°
New York	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°
Osaka	Cloudy	68° / 52°
Paris	Showers	55° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Rome	Cloudy	64° / 46°
Salem	Sunny	79° / 53°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	59° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Washington, DC	Sunny	70° / 55°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
11:38 AM	LOW TIDE	0.84
4:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75
11:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:26 AM	3:27 PM
Wednesday	-	4:14 AM	4:27 PM
Thursday	-	5:01 AM	5:26 PM
Friday	-	5:47 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:32 AM	7:22 PM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Crew members from the Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) launch on the cutter's 35-foot Cutter Boat to conduct fisheries boardings in the Central Pacific, Dec. 4, 2018. The Murno was on its first operational patrol and was en-route to Fiji to conduct operations the the Republic of Fiji Navy.

(U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS MATTHEW WEST)

Vigilance on the high seas

Oceania represents a geographic region many people are unfamiliar with, composed of Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Spanning the eastern and western hemispheres, Oceania covers an area of 3.3 million square miles and has a population of 40 million. It's also home to some of the United States' valued strategic partners—Australia and New Zealand, with whom the U.S. has aligned for more than a century, and many Pacific island nations.

The importance of the Pacific Islands is very evident as the U.S. Coast Guard continues operations in the region and the U.S. strengthens partnerships with the governments of these nations. Tourism and exports, both requiring a great deal of commercial vessel traffic, are the primary economic driver. One of these exports—tuna—represented a nearly $5 billion industry in 2015, with more than half the world's tuna sourced from the Western Pacific. In 2017 reported landings were 2.5 million tons of fish. How does any country, especially those that are smaller, protect a highly migratory resource in a region of more than 3.3 million square miles? Partnerships.

That partnership takes several forms, but most recently it was the crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Munro*, as they prepared to launch their 35-foot cutter for fisheries law enforcement boardings in the high seas off Fiji in December.

"This is the first time we have sent a national security cutter to perform this mission in this region," said Petty Officer 1st Class Kelly Brockett, a boarding officer on *Munro*. "That action lends support to our allies in the region."

The *Munro* is the Coast Guard's newest fully operational national security cutter. Known as the Legend-class, NSCs are designed to be the flagships of the Coast Guard's fleet, capable of executing the most challenging national security missions, including support to U.S. combatant commanders. At 418 feet in length and 4,600 long tons in displacement with a range of 12,000 nautical miles, an endurance of up to 90 days they are formidable assets. These new cutters are replacing the aging High Endurance Hamilton-class cutters (378 feet) that have been in service since the 1960s. This patrol marked the first use of this type of asset in Oceania.

The *Munro* crew enforced conservation and management measures established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. This body represents another essential partnership. The WCPFC is an international body made up of 43 nations and international organizations. Members agree to allow the 13-enforcer nations in the pact to board and record any potential violations on their nationally-flagged vessels. The findings go to the WCPFC who notifies the vessel's flag state of the suspected infraction for further investigation and subsequent action.

Participating in the WCPFC ties into a broader strategy the Coast Guard is pursuing in the Indo-Pacific region. Throughout the area, the U.S., and by extension the Coast Guard, is encouraging relationships respecting the sovereignty, supporting fair and reciprocal trade, and the rule of law in an open and free Oceania.

Through a tactical lens, that strategy looks like a Coast Guard boarding of a foreign fishing vessel, while on the high seas or in a sovereign exclusive economic zone jointly with a member of that country's enforcement team.

"We're looking at their permits, manifests, turtle mitigation measures," said Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan D'Arcy, one of the *Munro*'s boarding officers. "We are making sure there are no illegal fish onboard."

These boardings were off Fiji, a destination perhaps best known for picturesque beaches, incredible sea life, and romantic sunsets. The island nation is part of Melanesia and is an archipelago of more than 330 islands, about 110 of which are inhabited. Endowed with forest, mineral, and fish resources, Fiji is one of the most developed of the Pacific island economies. Tourism and sugar cane represent a large section of the gross domestic product, but fishing is also a large piece. Once a colony of Britain, it is now a republic with a sovereign government. In November the government entered into a bilateral enforcement agreement with the United States providing for shared policing of the EEZ and high seas offshore.

Crew members from the Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) prepare to conduct a law enforcement boarding from the cutter's 35-foot Cutter Boat in the Central Pacific, Dec. 2, 2018. The cutter was conducting its first operational patrol and was enforcing conservation and management measures established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

ZZ(U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS MATTHEW WEST/RELEASED)

"The bilateral agreements are simple; it means an increase in capabilities by providing temporary enforcement assets to many of these countries with limited fleets. In turn, we gain experience and access to enforce these measures in areas outside U.S. control with the goal of reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing," said Lt. Cmdr. Kenji Awamura, an enforcement officer with the Coast Guard 14th District. "Tuna are highly migratory. They chase heat. One day they may be in your waters, the next day in mine. These measures and partnerships seek to protect those fish regardless of the waters they are in so they may be harvested legally and sustainably later. This practice levels the playing field for all fishermen in the region and fosters economic stability of many Pacific nations."

That's what it looks like on paper; in practice it looks like the cutter boat crew launching from the stern of the *Munro*, with an Air Station Barbers Point MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew deploying from the cutter's flight deck to provide support for the operation. The aircrew boarded the cutter in Honolulu to participate in the patrol. Aviation assets further enhance the range of the crew. A Coast Guard HC-130, with an embarked enforcement officer from Fiji was also used toward the end of the patrol to identify vessels and enhance the capability and understanding of both sides.

An Air Station Barbers Point MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrew prepares to take off from the flight deck of the Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) in the Pacific Ocean, Dec. 04, 2018. The crew of the cutter was conducting its first operational patrol supporting partners in Oceania.

(U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS MATTHEW WEST/RELEASED)

"We identify what type of vessel they are, what they are actively doing," said Petty Officer 1st Class Mitch Onorato, a flight mechanic on the Dolphin. "We look for any security issue on the boat that may look abnormal."

In 2009 the Department of State entered into bilateral shiprider agreements with five nations to allow their authorities to enforce fishery laws from U.S. assets in their territorial waters. The number of countries that participate in such agreements with the U.S. has since increased to 10 nations with Fiji being the 11th.

Upon arriving in Fiji, the cutter embarked Fijian navy Sub-Lt. Opeti Enesi, a navigation officer, to participate in the first Fijian shiprider on a Coast Guard asset. The following day Enesi joined an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew during a joint law enforcement exercise with a Fijian navy patrol boat. The deployment of the *Munro* and Hercules crews displayed the Coast Guard's capability to conduct operations and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance across Oceania.

These efforts tied directly into the Coast Guard's goal of conducting operational activities by combining Coast Guard operational presence and information actions with coordinated efforts from our partners to deliver a free and open Indo-Pacific. Through such teamwork, the U.S. and nations like Fiji can work together to ensure a brighter future.

"This trip was huge for not only Fiji but also the United States," said Brockett. "It strengthens our partnerships with the Pacific Islands. It shows that we are here to help."

Though the *Munro*'s boardings earlier in the patrol resulted in no potential violations, it was a success. As the U.S. lead federal maritime law enforcement agency the presence of the Coast Guard on the high seas of the Pacific reinforces our commitment to our partners, and our resolve to those who would violate standing rules and regulations. It is another step toward ensuring sustainable fisheries for the region. Other cutters from the Coast Guard's Pacific inventory will continue to ply these waters, including the soon to be commissioned cutters *Kimball* and *Midgett*, both NSCs operating out of Honolulu as well as high endurance cutters from the West Coast. ***(USCG)***

Business

American Airlines cancels Max flights through mid-August

AP

In a March 13, 2019 file photo, an American Airlines Boeing 737 MAX 8 sits at a boarding gate at LaGuardia Airport in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—American Airlines announced Sunday that it was canceling 115 flights per day through mid-August because of ongoing problems with the Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

The announcement made American the second major carrier to cancel Max flights through the busy summer season. Southwest Airlines, the largest operator of Boeing jets, announced last week that it would cancel its Max flights through Aug. 5. American's cancellations will last through Aug. 19.

The U.S. and other countries grounded Boeing's 737 Max plane in mid-March after deadly plane crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia. Boeing aims to finish fixing the planes in late April, and any changes would have to be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration and foreign regulators for approval.

American previously planned to cancel Max flights through early June. But by extending cancellations through the summer, the airline can plan more reliably for the peak travel season, said Doug Parker, American's chairman and CEO, and Robert Isom, president, in a letter to employees Sunday.

Airlines are being forced to ground their planes longer than expected after Boeing and the FAA said the company needs more time to complete changes to a flight-control system suspected of playing a role in the crashes.

American's cancellations represent 1.5% of its total flights each day of the summer. The airline, which has 24 Max jets, said its reservations and sales teams will work with customers to manage their travel plans.

American explained on its website that not all flights previously scheduled on a Max would be canceled, because the airline plans to substitute other aircraft for some flights. That also means some flights that were not scheduled to take place on a Max plane may be canceled because the airline aims to affect the smallest number of customers.

American also said on its website that customers can request a full refund if they choose not to be rebooked.

On Twitter, American Airlines passengers posted complaints Sunday about canceled flights impacting vacations, speaking engagements and travel to funerals and noted problems re-booking flights. American canceled 350 out of Dallas-Fort Worth Saturday, but that had nothing to do with the Max, said spokesman Ross Feinsten. The cancellations were caused by hail, thunderstorms and high winds in Dallas followed by snow in Chicago, he said.

"We're working as hard as possible to rebook customers," Feinstein said.

Study finds diabetes drug may prevent, slow kidney disease

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

A drug that's used to help control blood sugar in people with diabetes has now been shown to help prevent or slow kidney disease, which causes millions of deaths each year and requires hundreds of thousands of people to use dialysis to stay alive.

Doctors say it's hard to overstate the importance of this study, and what it means for curbing this problem, which is growing because of the obesity epidemic.

The study tested Janssen Pharmaceuticals' drug Invokana. Results were discussed Sunday at a medical meeting in Australia and published by the New England Journal of Medicine.

About 30 million Americans and more than 420 million people worldwide have diabetes , and most cases are Type 2, the kind tied to obesity. It occurs when the body can't make enough or properly use insulin, which turns food into energy.

This can damage the kidneys over time, causing disease and ultimately, failure. In the U.S., it's responsible for nearly half a million people needing dialysis, and for thousands of kidney transplants each year.

Some blood pressure drugs lower this risk but they're only partially effective. The new study tested Invokana, a daily pill sold now to help control blood sugar, to see if it also could help prevent kidney disease when added to standard treatments.

For the study, about 13,000 people with Type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease from around the world were to be given Invokana or dummy pills. Independent monitors stopped the study early, after 4,400 people had been treated for about 2.5 years on average, when it was clear the drug was helping.

Those on the drug had a 30% lower risk of one of these problems — kidney failure, need for dialysis, need for a kidney transplant, death from kidney- or heart-related causes, or other signs that kidneys were failing.

For every 1,000 people taking the drug for 2.5 years, there would be 47 fewer cases of one of these problems, researchers estimate.

Rates of serious side effects were similar in the drug and placebo groups including leg, foot or toe amputations, a concern raised by a previous study of Invokana. One side effect, when the body can't produce enough insulin, was more frequent among those on Invokana but rare overall.

Janssen, which is part of Johnson & Johnson, sponsored the study and many authors work or consult for the company. The drug costs about $500 a month in the U.S. Out-of-pocket costs for patients may be different, depending on insurance.

The importance of this large and well-done study "cannot be overstated," Drs. Julie Ingelfinger and Clifford Rosen, editors at the medical journal, wrote in an accompanying article.

In recent years, several studies have found that Invokana and some similar drugs can lower heart risks. The new results, showing that Invokana also may stall or prevent kidney failure, expand the potential benefits of the drug.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp back up after massive outage

Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp were temporarily down early Sunday. All three social media platforms, including Facebook Messenger, were affected by the outage. Downdetector.com, a site that monitors site outages, shows Facebook had been down since 6:30 a.m. EST in much of the world, with thousands of reported outages concentrated in the northeastern U.S., Europe and the Philippines. It appeared to be back up and running for most users by 9 a.m. EST. A Facebook spokesman declined to give a reason for the outage, but said the issue has since been resolved and the company apologized for any inconvenience. #FacebookDown, #instagramdown and #whatsappdown were all trending on Twitter globally. Facebook acquired Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. There are more than 1.52 billion daily active Facebook users, according to the social media network's website. ***(AP)***

White House: Congress not smart enough to assess Trump taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—A White House spokeswoman says lawmakers aren't "smart enough" to assess President Donald Trump's tax returns. Press secretary Sarah Sanders tells "Fox News Sunday" she doesn't think House Democrats are equipped to examine the documents, which a key House committee is demanding under a 1920s law. The panel has given the IRS until April 23 to hand over six years' worth of Trump's personal and business filings. Trump said again last week that he won't release them because he is under audit, although the IRS says an audit doesn't bar public release. The president has also claimed the filings are too complex for people to understand. According to Sanders, that includes lawmakers, whom she doesn't trust to "look through the decades of success that the president has and determine anything."

Volkswagen unveils fully-electric SUV for China market

Volkswagen is planning to release a fully-electric SUV in China which could compete with Tesla's Model X. The German automaker said Sunday the ID. ROOMZZ will be unveiled at the upcoming Shanghai Auto Show and will be available in 2021. Volkswagen says the zero-emission vehicle can go approximately 450 kilometers (280 miles) before the battery has to be recharged. The concept car includes a fully-automatic driving mode which allows seats to be rotated 25 degrees to create a lounge-like atmosphere. The announcement comes one month after Volkswagen's former CEO Martin Winterkorn was charged by U.S. regulators with defrauding investors during its massive diesel emissions scandal. Volkswagen has said it will boost electric vehicle production to 22 million over the next decade. It made fewer than 50,000 battery-only vehicles last year. ***(AP)***

Nation

White House: Migrants to sanctuary cities not a top choice

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump wants to explore a twice-rejected proposal to send migrants to "sanctuary cities," but that is not the preferred solution to fix the straining immigration system, the White House said Sunday.

Press secretary Sarah Sanders said it was one of many options, though she hoped Congress would work with the president on a comprehensive immigration overhaul.

The Trump administration is dealing with an ever-increasing number of Central American migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, an influx that has pushed the immigration system to the breaking point.

Laws make it hard to quickly return Central Americans, and many of them spend years in the U.S. waiting for their immigration cases to play out. Others claim asylum and wait just as long, living and working in the U.S. as they wait.

"Sanctuary cities" are mostly left-leaning places such as New York City and San Francisco where laws prohibit local police and correction officers from working with immigration officials to help arrest and deport people living here illegally.

Trump seized on reports last week of the proposal that sought to send migrants already detained to Democratic locations or transport migrants that have just crossed the U.S.-Mexico border to sanctuary cities.

Sanders said the idea would be to spread out the number of migrants so the strain would not be on "one or two border communities."

"The president likes the idea and Democrats have said they want these individuals into their communities so let's see if it works and everybody gets a win out of it," Sanders said. "Again, this is not the ideal situation."

Trump tweeted on Saturday evening that the U.S. had the "absolute legal right to have apprehended illegal immigrants transferred to Sanctuary Cities."

But the plan had already been eschewed twice.

People with knowledge of the discussions say it was first brought to the Department of Homeland Security from White House staff in November, and was again discussed in February but was put down after DHS officials reviewed it and found it was too costly, a misuse of funds and would be too timely. The people were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

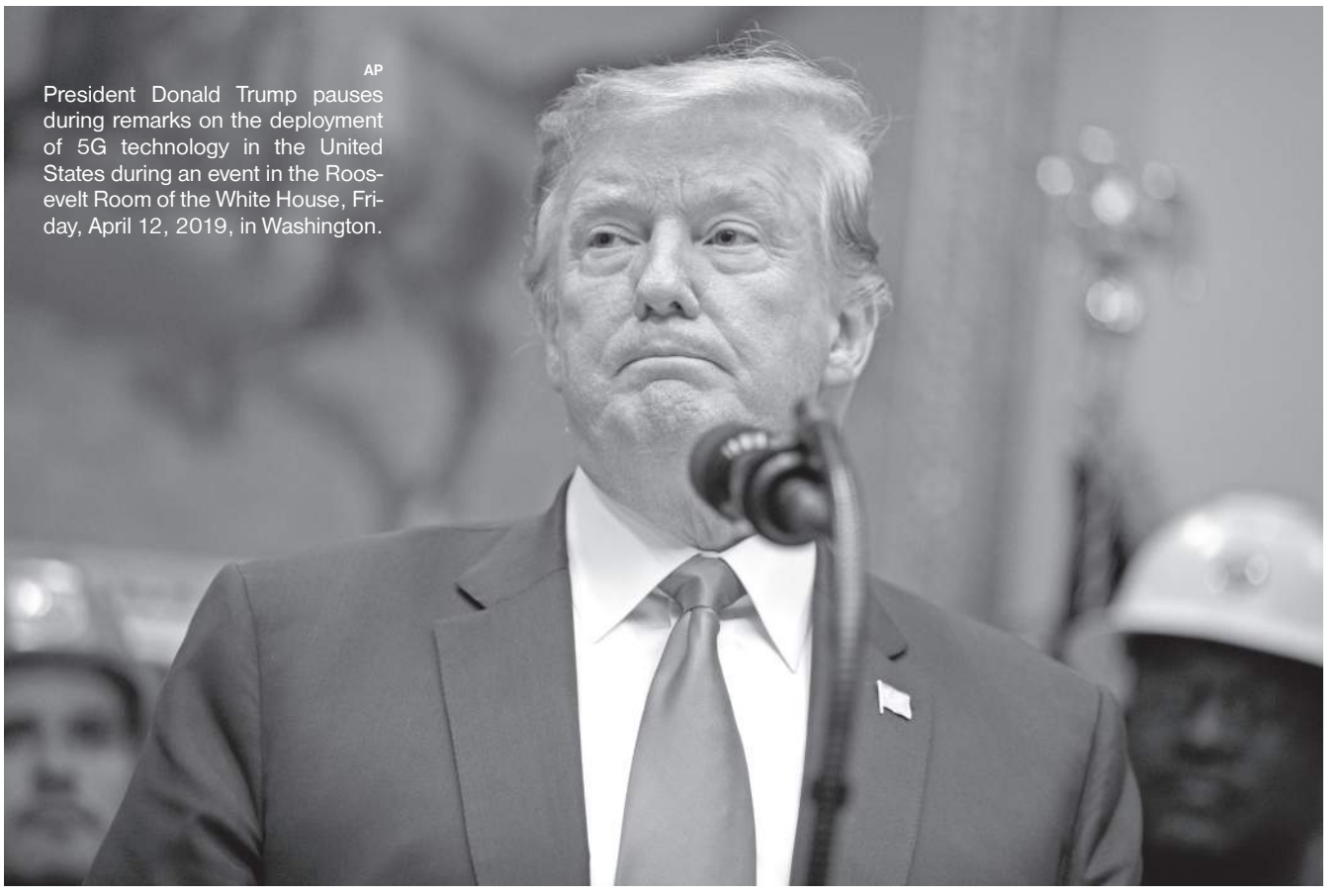
It actually could make it more difficult for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to arrest people facing deportation because sanctuary cities do not work with ICE.

The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University announced last week that an analysis found that immigrants in sanctuary cities are 20% less likely to be arrested out in the community than in cities without such policies.

Democrats criticized the White House proposal as a political stunt that used humans as pawns and would not work.

"Look, you can't threaten somebody with something they're not afraid of," said Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington state, a candidate for president. "And we are not afraid of diversity in the state of Washington. We relish it. It is the basis of our economic and cultural success. We're built as a state of immigrants."

The chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., questioned the legality of the proposal.



AP

President Donald Trump pauses during remarks on the deployment of 5G technology in the United States during an event in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Friday, April 12, 2019, in Washington.

ACROSS THE NATION

Coast Guard: 23 adrift for days rescued in Gulf of Mexico

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The U.S. Coast Guard said it worked with a cruise ship to rescue 23 people adrift for days in the Gulf of Mexico. A Coast Guard news statement issued Sunday saying 22 Cubans started traveling on a wooden boat from Cuba to Mexico before losing power and drifting three days. A Cuban-Mexican man took them aboard his sports fishing boat, but then its engines malfunctioned and the group drifted three more days. The Coast Guard said it was contacted early Sunday by a brother of one of the Cubans. In addition to launching its own effort to find the disabled fishing boat, the Coast Guard alerted the Carnival Fantasy. The cruise ship took the 23 people aboard within hours, about 130 nautical miles (210 kilometers) off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. The statement said two of the people rescued had minor medical issues and were treated by medical staff on the cruise ship. It added that the 23 people would be transferred Tuesday to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Coast Guard Investigative Services in Mobile, Alabama.

Students say gym teacher had black kids research slave games

SHOREWOOD, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin middle school gym teacher has been placed on indefinite leave while district officials look into claims that she separated students in one class by race and assigned the black children to research games that enslaved children played. The Shorewood Intermediate School teacher was instructing seventh-graders about games from around the world on April 1 when she allegedly gave the assignment to the black students, Shorewood School District Superintendent Bryan Davis said in a Thursday letter to parents. He didn't name the teacher. "We take these allegations extremely serious," Davis wrote. "Throughout this situation, student safety and well-being have been our top priority." One of the black students, MaHailey Stephens, told WITI-TV that she and her classmates were separated into groups based on race and asked to research games from their cultures. "I went to my mom, I'm like, 'mom, what are slave games?'" she said. Her mother, Reshunda Stephens, told the station that the same teacher asked her older daughter to be part of "the colored club," last year. "How many more times do people have to feel uncomfortable until change happens?" she asked.

Boy thrown from Mall of America balcony still hospitalized

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)—A 5-year-old boy who was seriously injured when he was thrown from a third-floor balcony at the Mall of America near Minneapolis remains hospitalized. Friends of the family have started a crowdfunding effort to help with medical bills. The GoFundMe campaign had raised nearly $400,000 as of Sunday morning. Bloomington Police Chief Jeffrey Potts said Sunday that the boy is "still alive and receiving care," and that the family wants privacy. Children's Hospital Minneapolis had no information to release. Authorities haven't released the boy's name. They say he fell nearly 40 feet after a man threw him off the balcony Friday. Twenty-four-year-old Emmanuel Deshawn Aranda, of Minneapolis, is jailed on a suspicion of attempted homicide charge. Jail records don't list an attorney for him. He could be formally charged as early as Monday.

NRA has history of promoting gun rights outside US

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—The recent revelation that National Rifle Association representatives had met with Australian politicians to discuss talking points after a mass shooting generated outrage from various politicians.

The reality is that the NRA has been exerting its influence on gun debates outside the U.S. for a number of years, exporting its firebrand rhetoric and belief that more guns will lead to less crime.

The lobbying group has sought sway at the United Nations to make it easier to sell American guns overseas and has on more than one occasion guided gun-rights groups in Brazil, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. It advised gun activists in Russia, entanglements that in recent years made the NRA vulnerable to allegations it allowed alleged Russian operatives to use the organization to influence American politics.

While American gun rights are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution—something that doesn't translate to most countries around the world—the group's track record of aggressively shaping the debate has nevertheless turned it into the go-to group for other gun-rights activists outside the U.S.

There are several reasons why the NRA doesn't confine itself to the U.S.

For one, it's helpful to American gun makers if other countries make it easier for citizens to buy and possess firearms, opening up new markets. And when other countries ease restrictions, it helps bolster one of the NRA's most prominent messages.

"They can make the argument, you know, 'Look, other nations don't like stricter gun laws either,' because one of the debate points that has hurt the NRA is that pretty much every other democratic nation has stricter gun laws than us and lower gun ownership," said Robert J. Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and a longtime watcher of the NRA.

A documentary aired last month by Al Jazeera reported officials with Australia's far-right One Nation party met with two NRA representatives and other gun-rights advocates seeking money to undermine Australian gun laws. During the meeting, captured on video by an undercover journalist posing as a gun lobbyist, they ask the NRA officials for advice on how to respond after a mass shooting. They're told to start with silence and then if it persists, to go on the offensive.

The NRA said it met with the Australians but did not provide any of the requested money sought at the meeting.

The NRA has a long overseas track record.

Perhaps its biggest success has been in Brazil, where the NRA worked with activists to help reject a referendum in 2005 that would have banned the sale of firearms and ammunition to civilians.

Working with gun-rights activists in that country, the NRA helped shape the debate. A turning point, some observers have said, was a television ad that flashed scenes from key moments in history: Tiananmen Square, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Nelson Mandela's release from prison. The ad emphasized gun rights as a fundamental right to freedom and liberty.

Asia

Removal of fuel in pool at Fukushima's melted reactor begins

AP
A Tokyo Electric Power Co. worker explains the operation at Unit 3 of Fukushima nuclear plant, in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan Monday. April 15, 2019.

TOKYO (AP)—The operator of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant has begun removing fuel from a cooling pool at one of three reactors that melted down in the 2011 disaster, a milestone in the decades-long process to decommission the plant.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Monday that workers started removing the first of 566 used and unused fuel units stored in the pool at Unit 3. The fuel units in the pool located high up in reactor buildings are intact despite the disaster, but the pools are not enclosed, so removing the units to safer ground is crucial to avoid disaster in case of another major quake.

TEPCO says the removal at Unit 3 would take two years, followed by the two other reactors where about 1,000 fuel units remain in the storage pools.

Removing fuel units from the cooling pools comes ahead of the real challenge of removing melted fuel from inside the reactors, but details of how that might be done are still largely unknown. Removing the fuel in the cooling pools was delayed more than four years by mishaps, high radiation and radioactive debris from an explosion that occurred at the time of the reactor meltdown, underscoring the difficulties that remain.

Workers are remotely operating a crane built underneath a jelly roll-shaped roof cover to raise the fuel from a storage rack in the pool and place it into a protective cask. The whole process occurs underwater to prevent radiation leaks. Each cask will be filled with seven fuel units, then lifted from the pool and lowered to a truck that will transport the cask to a safer cooling pool elsewhere at the plant.

The work is carried out remotely from a control room about 500 meters (yards) away because of still-high radiation levels inside the reactor building that houses the pool.

About an hour after the work began Monday, the first fuel unit was safely stored inside the cask, TEPCO said.

"I believe everything is going well so far," plant chief Tomohiko Isogai told Japan's NHK television from Fukushima. "We will watch the progress at the site as we put safety first. Our goal is not to rush the process but to carefully proceed with the decommissioning work."

In 2014, TEPCO safely removed all 1,535 fuel units from the storage pool at a fourth reactor that was idle and had no fuel inside its core when the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami occurred.

Robotic probes have photographed and detected traces of damaged nuclear fuel in the three reactors that had meltdowns, but the exact location and other details of the melted fuel are largely unknown. Removing fuel from the cooling pools will help free up space for the subsequent removal of the melted fuel, though details of how to gain access to it are yet to be decided.

Experts say the melted fuel in the three reactors amounts to more than 800 tons.

In February, a remote-controlled robot with tongs removed pebbles of nuclear debris from the Unit 2 reactor but was unable to remove larger chunks, indicating a robot would need to be developed that can break the chunks into smaller pieces. Toshiba Corp.'s energy systems unit, which developed the robot, said the findings were key to determining the proper equipment and technologies needed to remove the melted fuel, the most challenging part of the decommissioning expected to take decades.

TEPCO and government officials plan to determine methods for removing the melted fuel from each of the three damaged reactors later this year so they can begin the process in 2021.

Recovery falters in Indonesian city broken by quake disaster

PALU, Indonesia (AP)—Six months after Palu was ripped apart by an earthquake, tsunami and liquefying soil that sucked neighborhoods into the earth and killed thousands, a second crisis is looming as recovery efforts stumble and a city that feels ignored begs for humanitarian assistance.

Thousands of people in this city on Indonesia's Sulawesi island are still living in sweltering tent cities, while construction of new permanent homes has yet to start and almost a third of temporary housing is unoccupied after aid groups and authorities failed to connect the units to essential utilities.

President Joko Widodo, who is seeking a second term in elections this week, and his deputy promised that financial assistance to those whose homes were destroyed or whose loved ones were killed would be rapidly distributed. But not a cent has been paid out.

"It's like we're forgotten," said Ade Zahra, a mother of eight living in a tent city who says it's a miracle her family survived when the quake turned their village to mud and engulfed their home.

"We've received no more assistance in the past two months, not only the government, but also humanitarian groups and volunteers who used to provide a lot," she said.

The city's struggle to recover highlights a broader problem of neglect often suffered by remote regions in Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago home to hundreds of ethnic groups. Far from the center of economic, political and cultural power in populous Java, the region around Palu has a history of sectarian conflict and perceived indifference to its plight could embolden hard-liners.

City officials, meanwhile, are worried frustration among the displaced has reached a breaking point.

As anger among the refugees simmers, Widodo is focused on securing his reelection. Sulawesi mostly voted for Widodo in 2014, but he risks losing ground there this time. That could be crucial if the race is tighter than polls, which are predicting a strong Widodo victory.

The Sept. 28 earthquake spawned a large localized tsunami that wiped out coastal areas, while liquefaction caused by the shaking turned entire neighborhoods into rivers of sludge. The disaster killed more than 4,400 people, making it the world's deadliest seismic event in 2018.

The central government, at the time still grappling with the aftermath of deadly earthquakes on Lombok Island, appealed for international aid but didn't declare a national disaster, which would've opened the door wider to foreign assistance. It prohibited international aid organizations from operating on the ground.

Though the tragedy is fading from the national consciousness, large parts of Palu look like they were struck only yesterday, a daily reminder to residents of the horrors they lived through.

About 90% of roads have been repaired, according to Palu's mayor, but the shoreline is littered in debris and hollowed out buildings that lean precariously.

PH: US DNA tests confirm death of IS-linked leader

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. DNA tests have confirmed the death of a Muslim militant commander who helped lead the 2017 siege of a city in the southern Philippines and was considered a key leader of the Islamic State group in the region, officials said Sunday.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said the tests confirmed that Owaida Marohombsar, who was also known by his nom de guerre Abu Dar, was one of four militants killed in a March 14 gunbattle that also left four soldiers dead near southern Tubaran town in Lanao del Sur province. The Philippine military asked U.S. authorities to confirm Marohombsar's death through DNA tests.

Marohombsar helped lead the May 23, 2017, siege of Marawi, which troops quelled after five months of ground assaults and airstrikes that left more than 1,100 people, mostly militants, dead and destroyed the mosque-studded city's commercial and residential districts.

Most leaders of the attack were killed, but Marohombsar survived with a large amount of looted cash and jewelry from Marawi that authorities feared he could use to rebuild the militant's battered organization and plot new attacks. One regional official, Zia Adiong, said at the time that Marohombsar escaped from Marawi with at least 30 million pesos ($566,000) in stolen money.

But troops hunted the extremist leader and his men down across Lanao.

"This is another milestone in our campaign to finish and defeat ISIS and local terror groups in the country," Ano said, using an acronym of the Islamic State group.

Ano was the former military chief who supervised the U.S.- and Australian-backed offensive to crush the siege of Marawi, which sparked fears that the Islamic State group was advancing its efforts to establish a foothold in the region.

Marohombsar's killing will make it harder for the Islamic State group to establish a firm presence in the country's south, Ano said. The southern Philippines is the homeland of the largely Roman Catholic nation's minority Muslims and the scene of decades-old Muslim separatist unrest.

"For now, his group is leaderless. We are monitoring who will replace Dar," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters.

A Philippine army brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Romeo Brawner, said troops would pursue the rest of Marohombsar's remaining fighters, mostly based in Lanao's hinterlands, not far from Marawi.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte placed the country's south under martial law to bolster efforts by troops to eradicate militants who survived the Marawi fighting and go after their allied groups in other southern provinces like the brutal Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu province.

Marohombsar's death will likely strengthen the control of Abu Sayyaf leader Hajan Sawadjaan, who is based in Sulu's jungles, over a number of Islamic State group-linked armed groups in the south. Ano has said that Sawadjaan was installed as the new IS-aligned leader in the southern Philippines but that Marohombsar's group was adamant to recognize him as its regional leader.

A Philippine police profile said Marohombsar was reported to have undergone military and explosives training in Afghanistan in 2005 and returned to the south a few years later and established an armed group called the Khilafa Islamiyyah Mindanao.

World

US-Russia chill stirs worry about stumbling into conflict

WASHINGTON (AP)—It has the makings of a new Cold War, or worse.

The deep chill in U.S.-Russian relations is stirring concern in some quarters that Washington and Moscow are in danger of stumbling into an armed confrontation that, by mistake or miscalculation, could lead to nuclear war.

American and European analysts and current and former U.S. military officers say the nuclear superpowers need to talk more. A foundational arms control agreement is being abandoned and the last major limitation on strategic nuclear weapons could go away in less than two years. Unlike during the Cold War, when generations lived under threat of a nuclear Armageddon, the two militaries are barely on speaking terms.

"During the Cold War, we understood each other's signals. We talked," says the top NATO commander in Europe, U.S. Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, who is about to retire. "I'm concerned that we don't know them as well today."

Scaparrotti, in his role as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, has met only twice with Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the Russian general staff, but has spoken to him by phone a number of other times.

"I personally think communication is a very important part of deterrence," Scaparrotti said, referring to the idea that adversaries who know each other's capabilities and intentions are less likely to fall into conflict. "So, I think we should have more communication with Russia. It would ensure that we understand each other and why we are doing what we're doing."

He added: "It doesn't have to be a lot."

The United States and Russia, which together control more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, say that in August they will leave the 1987 treaty that banned an entire class of nuclear weapons. And there appears to be little prospect of extending the 2010 New Start treaty that limits each side's strategic nuclear weapons.

After a period of post-Cold War cooperation on nuclear security and other defense issues, the relationship between Washington and Moscow took a nosedive, particularly after Russian forces entered the former Soviet republic of Georgia in 2008. Tensions spiked with Russia's annexation of the Crimea in 2014 and its military intervention in eastern Ukraine. In response, Congress in 2016 severely limited military cooperation with Russia.

The law prohibits "military-to-military cooperation" until the secretary of defense certifies that Russia "has ceased its occupation of Ukrainian territory" and "aggressive activities." The law was amended last year to state that it does not limit military talks aimed at "reducing the risk of conflict."

Relations frayed even further amid U.S. allegations that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, although President Donald Trump has doubted Russian complicity in what U.S. intelligence agencies assert was an effort by Moscow to boost Trump's chances of winning the White House. After a Helsinki summit with Putin in July, Trump publicly accepted the Kremlin leader's denial of interference.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview Friday that Russian behavior is to blame for the strained relationship.

"It's very difficult for us to have normal relationships with a country that has not behaved normally over the last few years," Dunford said. "There are major issues that affect our bilateral relationship that have to be addressed, to include where Russia has violated international laws, norms and standards."

Dunford said he speaks regularly with Gerasimov, his Russian counterpart, and the two sides talk on other levels.

"I'm satisfied right now with our military-to-military communication to maintain a degree of transparency that mitigates the risk of miscalculation," he said. "I think we have a framework within to manage a crisis, should one occur, at the senior military-to-military level."

James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral who was the top NATO commander in Europe from 2009 to 2013, says the West must confront Russia where necessary, including on its interventions in Ukraine and Syria. But he believes there room for cooperation on multiple fronts, including the Arctic and arms control.

"We are in danger of stumbling backward into a Cold War that is to no one's advantage," he said in an email exchange. "Without steady, political-level engagement between the defense establishments, the risk of a true new Cold War rises steadily."

AP

In this March 16, 2017, file photo, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti arrives for a meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Lawyer alleges Ecuador spread lies about WikiLeaks founder

LONDON (AP)—A lawyer representing WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange alleged Sunday that Ecuador's government has spread lies about his behavior inside its embassy in London, where Assange sought asylum in 2012.

The Latin American country has claimed Assange actions deteriorated before his arrest Thursday and included putting excrement on walls, leaving soiled laundry in the bathroom, and not properly looking after his cat.

Lawyer Jennifer Robinson told British TV network Sky News the Ecuadorian government is spreading alleged falsehoods to divert attention from its decision to revoke his asylum and allow his arrest at its British embassy,

"I think the first thing to say is Ecuador has been making some pretty outrageous allegations over the past few days to justify what was an unlawful and extraordinary act in allowing British police to come inside an embassy," Robinson said.

Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno ended Assange's protected status after more than 6½ years and opened the way for his arrest there Thursday.

Moreno said Assange abused Ecuador's goodwill, mistreated embassy staff and used his perch to try to interfere in other country's political affairs.

Assange has had "a very difficult time" since Moreno took office in Ecuador in 2017, Robinson said.

Assange, who appeared much older when he emerged from the embassy than when before he sought refuge there in August 2012, is in custody at Belmarsh Prison in southeast London awaiting sentencing in Britain for skipping bail to avoid being sent to Sweden as part of an investigation of a rape allegation. Sweden is considering reviving the investigation.

The United States also is seeking his extradition after charging him with conspiring to break into a Pentagon computer system, which could lead to competing extradition demands.

U.K. Home Secretary Sajid Javid would be expected to have the final say in which claim takes priority. More than 70 British legislators have urged Javid to give priority to a case involving rape allegations ahead of the U.S. request.

He would not be expected to enter a plea to the Department of Justice case unless he loses his extradition case and is brought to a courtroom in the United States.

Assange has denied the rape allegation, asserting the sex was consensual. He also has not formally responded to the U.S. conspiracy charge. His indictment was made public hours after his Thursday arrest, but Assange's lawyers say he is a legitimate journalist whose prosecution would have a chilling effect.

The extradition court in Britain will not be judging the evidence against him, but will evaluate whether the crime he is accused of would be a crime in Britain.

Assange's next court appearance is scheduled for May 2. In the meantime, he is expected to seek prison medical care for severe shoulder pain and dental problems, WikiLeaks has said.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN says 120 killed since fighting broke out in Libya

CAIRO (AP)—More than 120 people have been killed since a Libyan military commander launched an assault on the capital 10 days ago, igniting clashes with rival militias, the U.N. health agency said Sunday. The self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, launched a surprise offensive against Tripoli on April 5 and is battling rival militias loosely affiliated with a weak U.N.-backed government. The World Health Organization said 121 people have been killed in the fighting and another 561 have been wounded. It did not specify whether they were fighters or civilians. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said more than 13,500 people have been displaced, and that "significant numbers of civilians" remain stuck in areas where the fighting has escalated. U.N. envoy Ghassan Salame said a school was bombed in the town of Ain Zara, around 15 kilometers (9 miles) southeast of Tripoli, without saying who was responsible. Both sides have carried our airstrikes in the town, and a spokesman for the Libyan National Army said it has stepped up airstrikes on its rivals in the past two days. Hifter has vowed to unify the country after years of chaos following the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. He has led previous campaigns against Islamic militants and other rivals in eastern Libya, and has received support from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia and France.

UK police say man held in hospital after embassy car-ramming

LONDON (AP)—British police say a man suspected of purposefully driving into parked cars in front of the Ukrainian Embassy in London has been hospitalized for mental health treatment. London's Metropolitan Police force said officers fired at the 40-year-old driver's vehicle and took him into custody Saturday after he allegedly rammed the Ukrainian ambassador's car and several others outside the embassy. London police say he also drove his car toward officers. No one was injured. Police say the man's actions were not related to extremism. He has not been charged or identified. A police committee is investigating the officers' use of firearms. They also used stun guns to subdue the suspect.

Focus

AP

In this April 4, 2019, photo, Stephen Fonseca, right, inspects a small shin bone he found in a ruined maize field in Magaru, Mozambique. The bone likely belonged to a small child whose vertebrae had been found not far away.

One man's quest to find the dead after devastating cyclone

By CARA ANNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAGARU, Mozambique (AP)—He was haunted by the thought of a small child's skull, unburied and lost in the debris of a cyclone that had claimed hundreds of lives.

Stephen Fonseca stood in a field of ruined maize where a tiny spine had been found, and he wanted to find the rest of the body. But in every direction were scattered kernels and stalks bleached by the sun. At a glance, much of the landscape looked like bones.

The stark scene brought home the overwhelming challenge faced by Fonseca, the only body recovery specialist to search the rural Mozambique region struck by Cyclone Idai, since he waded into the devastation nearly a month ago.

If a final death toll ever emerges—it is now more than 600 in Mozambique alone—it will be strongly informed by Fonseca's work in the field, and the quest to name the missing and the dead.

The storm tore apart frightened families and swept whole villages away, with floodwaters as high as treetops rushing toward the sea. Parents lost their grip on children. Exhausted people clinging to branches for days fell into the waters and drowned.

For days on end, Fonseca followed the accounts of villagers who spoke of seeing the dead floating by.

As the waters began to recede, he walked for miles through mud so thick it sucked boots off feet. Crocodiles, hippos and snakes posed threats but hungry dogs and pigs were a bigger concern. Fonseca needed to find the bodies before they did, and bury them well.

His search was guided by smell, and animal tracks, and flies. It was uncomfortable but necessary work, as bare bones are far more difficult to find, and time was running out.

"This is our one good opportunity to get as much as possible," said Fonseca, the South Africa-based forensic coordinator for Africa with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

As he pushed through the rural farmland he met local people who were just as concerned about the dignity of the dead. Desperate for news of their missing family members, some communities sent out search teams.

Bodies that were found were given a quick but respectful burial, even when they were strangers. Some of the dead wore the uniforms of neighboring Zimbabwe's security forces, having been swept down mountainsides some 60 miles (100 kilometers) away by the raging waters.

AP

In this April 5, 2019, photo, Stephen Fonseca, left, digs into a grave where he buried a tiny spine in Magaru, Mozambique. If a final death toll ever emerges for the region struck by Cyclone Idai, now above 600 in Mozambique alone, it will be strongly informed by Fonseca's work, and the quest to name the missing and the dead.

Burials were difficult work. Shovels, like homes, had been lost. Some people dug with their bare hands, then watched the holes fill with water from the still-sodden ground.

"They take the time because one day our time will come as well," Fonseca said. He found the community burials comforting, with people even pausing from handing out badly needed humanitarian aid to take turns digging.

And yet he knew the burials almost certainly went unreported to authorities, meaning they would not be counted in the official death toll and families might never know their loved ones' fates.

Shallow graves were precarious, too, vulnerable to animals and further floods, the possible scattering of bones.

"You bury who you can but not always well," said Ibrahim Ismail, a local farm manager. "So he's helping."

Fonseca offered to do exhumations and reburials but only with permission. One family that had tracked down and buried two relatives near a termite mound, a natural marker, decided to let them be. In their culture a person should not be dug up and moved, they said.

"I appreciate what he's doing. It's life-saving for some of us," said Manuel Joaquim Makanije, a community member who nevertheless understood the family's decision.

Relatives long for closure, but the bodies could be anywhere.

Fonseca came across the corpse of a young girl tangled high in a tree. A local man scrambled up the trunk and slowly lowered her to the ground, while children watched.

On another long hike Fonseca saw a boatman ferry a woman to a body found on an island. The face was missing, but the woman wept, certain it was her missing relative.

With forensic methods such as DNA tests, fingerprinting and dental records almost impossible in rural Mozambique, Fonseca respects what he called "cultural identification." Clothing, location and other signs were considered in the interest of grieving relatives' peace of mind.

Without a mandate from Mozambique's government to issue death certificates or compile official figures, Fonseca instead gave community leaders guidance on handling the dead. He distributed wooden grave markers, body tags, gloves.

It reflected his wider work in Africa helping to strengthen forensics awareness on a continent where people increasingly seek accountability, and answers, over the dead.

Fonseca's time in Mozambique was ending and he would soon head home to South Africa. The work, in very challenging conditions, takes a toll, colleague Neil Morris said. "Stephen knew when he needed to return."

In one last try, Fonseca gravitated back to the maize field where nine members of a single family had died.

Soon farmers would burn the fields to plant a short-term crop to help avoid months of hunger, as the cyclone had struck just before the annual harvest. The fires would further complicate identifying the dead.

As people picked their way through the field salvaging maize kernels, resuming their lives, Fonseca resumed his search for what he knew were now bare bones.

The farmers shouldn't have to discover them, he said. "They've been through enough trauma."

He searched slowly. It took hours. "There's a little cranium somewhere here," he said, half to himself, thinking of the child. "Someone's going to find it."

Finally he stopped and tied a blue latex glove to a stalk of maize, as a marker.

He had found a small shin bone, not much larger than a pencil.

The bone likely belonged to the same child whose spine had been found not far away.

In the end, the bones would be buried together.

There were no child-sized body bags. Fonseca improvised one using duct tape.

"Some people think it gets easier. I think it gets harder," he said of his work. "Now I'm a parent. I start to relate to some degree how absolutely devastating it is to lose a child. But I will never say I fully understand what they are going through."

He and a local chief, Moises Mukoto, went to the burial site, a short walk through tall grass. Fonseca, sweating in the hot sun, dug open a small grave as the chief wrote the time of day in a notebook, and waited.

The bag with the shin bone was gently laid in the hole alongside the tiny spine, which had been buried there earlier. Then the chief quickly hoed the earth back in place.

"Even one bone is important," Fonseca said. "It represents someone special."

The wooden grave marker, written in permanent ink, said: "Don't touch. The body of a child."

It will take months, even years, to discover the cyclone's dead, Fonseca said.

Not everyone will be found.

Overdrive

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

TNS
2019 Buick Encore.

Since arriving in the Buick lineup for 2013, the Encore small crossover, with a 2019 base price of just $23,200 (plus $995 freight), quickly became Buick's top-selling vehicle.

A major freshening of the five-passenger Encore made it even better for year 2017.

That brought a new, sculpted front end and streamlined design that included new front and rear fascias, a winged grille with a new Buick tri-color insignia, new headlights and taillights with LED signature lighting, a new hood and front fenders, and redesigned 18-inch alloy wheels.

The interior got its share of changes as well, with a new instrument layout, eight-inch touch-screen audio system, 4.2-inch driver-information screen, chrome accents
, contrast stitching on upholstery, and premium materials.

The 2017 Encore also debuted such new features as pushbutton start, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay connectivity, keyless lock/unlock on the door handles, and improved six-power power-adjustable driver's seat (with manual recline).

For 2019, the trim levels have been dropped to four from last year's five, and include the base Encore ($23,200), Preferred ($24,600), Sport Touring ($25,800) and Essence ($29,300). Those prices are for front-wheel-drive models, but all-wheel drive can be added to any trim level except the base model for $1,500.

Our test vehicle for this report was the top-end Essence model with all-wheel drive (base price $30,800).

Also new for 2019 is the Safety Package II ($940), available only on the Essence trim. It was included on our tester, and it added rain-sensing wipers, front and rear park assist, Forward Collision Alert, Lane Departure Warning and an air ionizer.

New exterior colors for 2019 are Satin Steel Gray Metallic, which was the color of our tester, and Deep Azure Metallic. On the Essence model, only Summit White is available at the base price. Our car's Satin Steel Gray, the Deep Azure and four other metallic colors — Ebony Twilight, Quicksilver, Winterberry Red and Coppertino — are $495 extra, and White Frost Tricoat adds $1,095 to the sticker price.

The Encore is a big part of efforts to bringing new, younger buyers to Buick as it tries to rebuild a brand that had long been associated with big cars and older clientele.

This small crossover is a version of the Opel Mokka, from GM's now former German subsidiary that was sold to French automaker Peugeot in 2017. The Buick Encore and the similar Chevrolet Trax are assembled in GM's plant in South Korea.

Encore is a junior version of the full-size Enclave crossover, and is among a growing number of small crossovers introduced by a variety of automakers as more consumers look for vehicles that are versatile and economical to operate.

Along with the addition of the slightly larger China-built Envision compact crossover for 2016, Buick now has three crossovers, as well as a wagon version of the Opel-based Regal midsize sedan, called the Regal TourX.

With room for up to five people, the Encore was designed for young, upwardly mobile singles and couples looking for a vehicle that fits their active lifestyles. It also appeals to empty-nesters and retired consumers.

For 2016, the Sport Touring model was added to the lineup. It comes with some unique features, such as 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels with midnight silver finish, rear spoiler, and body-color door handles.

The base engine is a 1.4-liter turbocharged Ecotec four-cylinder with 138 horsepower and 148 foot-pounds of torque. It's connected to a six-speed automatic transmission.

Optional on the Sport Touring and Essence models, for $250 extra, is a more-powerful 1.4-liter Ecotec turbo four-cylinder engine with start-stop technology. It has 153 horsepower and 177 foot-pounds of torque. It's also paired with a six-speed automatic. This engine was included on our test vehicle.

The Encore comes with OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity and a built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. That gives everyone in the vehicle access to the Internet while the vehicle is in range of cell towers. GM says the hotspot is on whenever the car is running, and it includes a free three-month trial subscription.

Encore's all-wheel drive is designed to send power almost 50-50 to the front and rear on startup, but favors the front wheels in normal driving until the automatic system detects wheel slippage. There is no low-range gearing for serious off-road driving, however.

Available high-tech safety features include Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Side Blind Zone Alert systems, included on all but the base model.

Driving the Encore is rather fun for a crossover. Even the base engine is turbocharged, which gives it a good boost when the accelerator is mashed. With either engine, you'll get the same six-speed automatic transmission.

The electric power steering was precise and predictable, and the four-wheel antilock disc brakes made for quick and sure stopping, even in the occasional near-panic situations that seem to occur with more frequency when traffic gets thick.

With its small size and light weight (about 3,400 pounds), the Encore offers the best fuel economy in the Buick lineup, and EPA ratings that are among the best in the crossover realm. With the base engine and front drive, the estimates are 25 mpg city/30 highway/27 combined; for all-wheel-drive models, 24/29/26. The optional turbo engine is rated slightly better, at 26/31/28 for front drive, and 25/30/27 with all-wheel drive.

During my test, I averaged about 26.8 mpg, with a combination of city and highway driving.

Inside, the Encore doesn't feel small. Tall people — six feet or more — can ride in comfort in the front bucket seats, and they're riding higher up than you would imagine in a vehicle with such a small exterior size. There is no feel of being in a tiny vehicle, sitting close to the ground.

Outside, the Encore looks somewhat like a junior-size version of the seven-passenger Enclave, with similar front-end styling and overall shape, and the signature Buick grille.

The Encore is about a foot shorter than the Honda CR-V. It's about the same size inside as the Volkswagen Tiguan, which is about six inches longer, and the Audi Q5, which is about a foot-and-a-half longer.

We were able to seat three average-size adults in the rear bench seat for some short trips. Outboard passengers had plenty of leg and knee room, although the middle rider was a bit cramped and suggested that might not be a good place for a long trip. A child safety seat would fit there well, however, with two larger kids or even small- to medium-size adults on each side.

But the only cupholders in the back were a pair in a small pull-down center armrest that eliminates the middle seating position. Small door pockets were not wide enough to serve as bottle holders either in front or back.

In the front, the center console area provides two small cupholders and a lidded compartment for gadgets. In front of the shifter is a slanted cubby suitable for a couple of portable devices, and there are USB and auxiliary ports right next to a 12-volt power outlet in front of the storage spot.

There is 18.8 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seat, accessed through a rear hatch that flips up in one piece for easy loading and unloading. Fold down the rear seatback, though, and the cargo area expands to a whopping 48.4 cubic feet. You could get a big-screen TV box back there, if necessary.

Encore is relatively quiet inside, aided by Buick's exclusive QuietTuning, which uses Bose Active Noise Cancellation technology.

Even the base model comes loaded with features such as OnStar, cruise control, premium cloth upholstery, heated outside mirrors, six-way power driver's seat with lumbar adjustment, and power windows/door locks with remote.

Also included are an AM/FM/CD/satellite audio system with eight-inch color display/USB port/Bluetooth connectivity, color-keyed carpeted floor mats, rear cargo cover, roof luggage rails, two gloveboxes, a theft-deterrent system, 18-inch painted cast-aluminum wheels, and a compact spare tire with jack.

Our top-end Essence model had leather seats, self-dimming rearview mirror, remote start, dual automatic climate control, 120-volt power outlet, fog lights, heated/leather-wrapped steering wheel, six-way power passenger seat, and a driver memory package with settings for seat position, outside mirrors and climate control.

Other extras on our test vehicle included a power sunroof ($900) and Bose premium audio system ($595) with HD radio.

Standard safety features include 10 air bags, electronic stability control, rearview camera, cornering brake control with electronic brake assist, tire-pressure monitoring, and a safety-cage body designed to protect the occupants.

Total sticker price for our 2019 Buick Encore Essence with all-wheel drive was $34,975, including freight and options.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Buick Encore

- The package: Compact, five-door, five-passenger, turbocharged four-cylinder powered, front- or all-wheel-drive premium crossover utility vehicle.
- Highlights: Introduced for 2013 and updated extensively two years ago, this is the smallest vehicle in the Buick lineup, made on the same chassis as the Chevrolet Trax and the Opel Mokka, which is sold in Europe and Asia. It offers sporty handling for a utility vehicle, decent performance with its turbocharged engines, decent fuel economy, and plenty of utility.
- Negatives: Can be a tight fit for adults in the back seat.
- Engines: 1.4-liter turbocharged inline four-cylinder, gasoline; upgraded 1.4-liter turbo four-cylinder gasoline with start-stop feature (optional on Sport Touring or Essence trims, $250).
- Power/torque: 138 HP./148 foot-pounds (base); 153 HP./177 foot-pounds (optional).
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic.
- Length: 168.5 inches.
- Curb weight: 3,237-3,358 pounds.
- Cargo volume: 18.8 cubic feet (behind rear seat); 48.4 cubic feet (rear seat folded).
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Fuel capacity/type: 14 gallons/unleaded regular.
- EPA fuel economy: 25 mpg city/30 highway/27 combined (base engine, front drive); 24/29/26 (base engine, all-wheel drive); 26/31/28 (optional engine, front drive); 25/30/27 (optional engine, all-wheel drive).
- Major competitors: Chevrolet Trax, Mazda CX-3, Hyundai Kona, Kia Soul, Nissan Kicks, Ford EcoSport, Toyota C-HR, Honda HR-V, Jeep Renegade, Subaru Crosstrek, Volvo XC40.
- Base price range: $23,200-$30,800, plus $995 freight.
- Price as tested: $34,975, including freight and options (Essence AWD with engine upgrade, Safety Package II, Bose audio, sunroof, premium paint).
- On the Road rating: 8.7 (of a possible 10).
- Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail; actual selling price may vary.

Life & Style

City of Chicago sues Jussie Smollett for investigative costs

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago filed a lawsuit against Jussie Smollett on Thursday in a bid to recoup the costs of investigating a racist, anti-gay attack that authorities say was orchestrated by the "Empire" actor as a publicity stunt, with the city saying—at minimum—that it now wants triple the amount it initially asked Smollett to pay.

The 12-page civil lawsuit , filed in Cook County court, is the latest volley in a legal battle that shows no signs of abating since Smollett reported that masked men beat him up on Jan. 29 in Chicago, shouting slurs and wrapping a rope around his neck.

Smollett

The suit comes after Smollett refused a demand that he send the city $130,106 to reimburse Chicago for overtime as police sought to verify Smollett's account.

The lawsuit doesn't specify an amount of money the city is seeking but does indicate it wants over $390,000 plus "further relief as this Court deems just and equitable." It also asks that Smollett be ordered to foot any legal bills Chicago incurs in suing him.

More than two dozen officers and detectives spent two weeks investigating Smollett's claims, with the police department forced to pay for 1,836 overtime hours, the filing says.

The city's resolve to take Smollett to civil court follows a surprising decision by prosecutors in March to drop all criminal charges accusing him of staging the incident, saying they believed they could prove the charges but that it wasn't worth the time and expense.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel denounced the decision as "a whitewash of justice," and others criticized the Cook County state's attorney's office for not requiring an apology and an admission of guilt from Smollett as a condition for tossing the case.

The complaint, written by City Hall's top attorney, Edward Siskel, lacks the hard-hitting language and denunciations of Smollett by Emanuel. It's devoted primarily to describing the allegations already spelled out when Smollett was charged in late February.

Diana? Alice? Elizabeth? Britons bet on new royal baby name

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, may be keeping plans about their impending baby under wraps, but that hasn't stopped everyone in Britain from trying to guess the gender and the name of their first child.

If Britain's bookmakers are to be believed, it's definitely a girl—and Diana may well be one of her many names.

The William Hill agency closed the betting on the baby's gender a few days ago after an "avalanche" of bets poured in from people convinced the royal couple is having a girl.

"The secret's out, as far as we're concerned," firm spokesman Rupert Adams said. "It could be because someone somewhere has seen the scan, or someone has heard something."

In this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019 file photo, Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, watch children playing football at a school in the town of Asni, in the Atlas mountains, Morocco. AP

While Adams acknowledged there's always a chance the surge was based on nothing, he said average betting patterns over the years suggest there's usually some truth in rumors.

So far, Diana is topping the bookmakers' list as a front-running name—William Hill has put the odds at 4/1. Victoria, Alice, Grace and Elizabeth are close behind, while Albert, Arthur and James are popular guesses for a boy.

"A ridiculous number—80% of bets taken—are for the name Diana," Adams said. He said he personally doubts Harry would choose a name that so directly evokes his iconic mother's tragic death in 1997 but added: "There's every chance of it being a middle name."

Carolyn Harris, a royal historian who teaches at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, agrees that Diana could be a middle name. That's what Harry's brother, Prince William, and his wife Kate did for their daughter, Princess Charlotte (the 3-year-old's full name is Charlotte Elizabeth Diana).

"The choice of Diana as a first name would place a lot of pressure on the royal baby, as the press would constantly compare her to her famous grandmother," she said.

'Shazam!' bests newcomers with $25.1M second weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—A rush of newcomers couldn't shake "Shazam!" from the top spot, as the superhero comedy led the box office for the second straight weekend with $25.1 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Lionsgate's "Hellboy" reboot, the animated Laika Studios release "Missing Link," the college romance "After" and even the long-delayed "Mary Magdalene," originally to be released by the Weinstein Co., all opened in theaters. But the strongest new release of them all was, predictably, the Will Packer-produced one: "Little."

The body-swap comedy "Little" came in second with $15.5 million for Universal Pictures. Made for just $20 million, "Little" is just the most recent profit-maker for Packer, the "Girls Trip" producer.

The film, directed by Tina Gordon Chism, stars 14-year-old Marsai Martin as the child an abusive tech executive (Regina Hall) reverts to after a magical spell is cast on her. Martin, the "black-ish" star, also executive produced the film, the youngest ever so credited in Hollywood history.

1. **"Shazam!"** *$25.1 million* ($35.9 million international).
2. **"Little,"** *$15.5 million* ($1.9 million international).
3. **"Hellboy,"** *$12 million* ($10.1 million international).
4. **"Pet Sematary,"** *$10 million* ($12.6 million international).
5. **"Dumbo,"** *$9.2 million* ($22 million international).
6. **"Captain Marvel,"** *$8.6 million* ($8 million international).
7. **"Us,"** *$6.9 million* ($4.4 million international).
8. **"After,"** *$6.2 million* ($11.7 million international).
9. **"Missing Link,"** *$5.8 million* ($8.9 million international).
10. **"The Best of Enemies,"** *$2 million.*

"Little" drew a largely female (65 and African American (43%) audience. Jim Orr, Universal Pictures distribution chief, credited the cast, Chism's direction and Packer's overall know-how.

"He's done it with different kinds of films. 'Breaking In' was a thriller, 'Girls Trip' was an R-rated comedy. 'Little' is kind of an all-ages film, PG-13 rated,'" said Orr, whose studio signed a first-look deal with Packer in 2013. "He's a brand. And he has a great idea of what is going to be successful at the box office."

It was an out-of-body weekend at the box office. The body-swap comic-book adaptation "Shazam!"—about a teenage boy (Asher Angel) who can turn into an adult-sized superhero (Zachary Levi) with a simple command—held solidly in its second week. Capitalizing on good reviews and word-of-mouth, "Shazam!" is Warner Bros.' New Line's latest DC Comics success. It has grossed $94.9 million through Sunday with a worldwide total of $258.8 million.

Lionsgate and Millennium's "Hellboy" had been expected by many to vie with "Shazam!" on the weekend. But on the heels of terrible reviews (just 15% "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes), it flopped with $12 million against a $50 million budget.

That's significantly less than the debuts of the 2004 original ($23 million opening) and the 2008 sequel ($34.5 million opening). Those films were directed by Guillermo de Toro and starred Ron Perlman; the new "Hellboy" stars David Harbour ("Stranger Things") and is directed by Neil Marshall.

"Missing Link" also missed. It opened with a disappointing $5.8 million, marking a new low for Laika, the maker of eccentric animated tales such as "Coraline," "ParaNorman" and "Kubo and the Two Strings." "Missing Link," distributed by United Artists Releasing, is about the discovery of a creature in the Pacific Northwest. Its voice cast includes Zach Galifianakis, Hugh Jackman and Zoe Saldana.

A new 'Les Miserables' heads to TV—no singing along please

NEW YORK (AP)—David Oyelowo kept his distance from the rest of the actors while filming the upcoming six-part retelling of "Les Miserables ." It wasn't personal.

Dominic West would often invite his fellow actors out for a bite or just to hang out but Oyelowo would repeatedly decline. West wondered why it was so hard to get to know Oyelowo.

The reason was because Oyelowo was playing the morally rigid, obsessive Inspector Javert and felt he had stay an arm's length away to remain in character.

"I wanted to feel like an outsider. I wanted to feel like a shark," said Oyelowo. "I like to lose myself in whatever I'm doing. I think that gives you a better chance of making the audience go on that journey with you."

The added preparation can be seen on PBS' "Masterpiece" beginning Sunday when Javert begins his hunt for the heroic fugitive Jean Valjean, played by West, in a powerful adaptation of Victor Hugo's mammoth novel by screenwriter Andrew Davies.

The six-hour series is grounded in the sprawling, tumultuous book, not the musical. It also stars Lily Collins as Fantine, Derek Jacobi as the Bishop of Digne and Olivia Colman as Madame Thenardier.

Several of the actors admitted they were initially skeptical about the project so soon after the recent Tom Hooper-directed film until they read or reread Hugo's book, something West calls "incredibly accessible masterwork."

The series tells the tale of the long-suffering Valjean and his never-ending flight from Javert. Their relationship—a former criminal who shows he can change and the policeman who doesn't believe in redemption—is played out against a backdrop of student revolution and a new generation finding their voices.

Huge themes are explored, including the plight of the underclass, the notion of inherent criminality, the force of justice and the role of citizens. Some are touched on in the musical theater version but the new series promises a fuller look.

"People, of course, may tune in thinking they know the complete story. But this allows for six hours of material," Collins said. "It was amazing to be able to have an entire episode dedicated to what would have normally been a song lyric."

Oyelowo said he thinks the new PBS adaptation can coexist with the musical. "The way I think about it: For those who love the book, this six hours gives you the opportunity to see these characters come to life in a way that I think is authentic to the book," he said.

Favreau gives 'Star Wars' fans 1st look at 'The Mandalorian'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Favreau gave fans their first look at the "The Mandalorian" at the Star Wars Celebration in Chicago on Sunday, previewing the most anticipated series yet from the galaxy far, far away.

Favreau's eight-episode series will debut on the Disney-Plus streaming service on November 12. It's set in the aftermath of "The Return of the Jedi," taking place five years after the Rebellion's victory.

Favreau

Favreau premiered behind-the-scenes clips and some finished footage to attendees.

The series stars Pedro Pascal as the title character, a lone gunfighter the actor compared to a Western or samurai hero. It co-stars Gina Carano as a character named Cara Dune and Carl Weathers as a bounty hunter named Greef. Werner Hergog and Giancarlo Esposito also co-star.

Favreau called himself "a product of a Star Wars imagination" who was eager to plunge into the post-"Jedi" landscape.

"You have vestiges of the Empire. You have only the strong surviving. You have chaos taking over the galaxy," Favreau said.

On Friday, Lucasfilm debuted the trailer for next theatrical "Star Wars" film, "The Rise of Skywalker."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Man sues parents for getting rid of his vast porn collection

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — An Indiana man is suing his parents for getting rid of his vast pornography collection, which he estimates is worth $29,000. The 40-year-old man last week filed a lawsuit in federal court in Michigan, where he moved in with his parents in 2016 following a divorce. He says that when he moved out 10 months later, they delivered his things to his new home in Muncie, Indiana, but that his 12 boxes of pornographic films and magazines were missing. His parents admit they dumped the porn, which included titles such as "Frisky Business" and "Big Bad Grannys." The man filed a complaint with police, but the Ottawa County prosecutor declined to press charges. The lawsuit includes an email excerpt from the man's father, who told his son, "I did you a big favor by getting rid of all this stuff." The man is seeking triple financial damages of roughly $87,000.

Man who says he helped actor stage attack wins boxing title

CHICAGO (AP) — One of two brothers who say Jussie Smollett paid them to help him stage a racist, anti-gay attack against himself has won an amateur boxing title in Chicago. The Chicago Tribune reports that Abimbola "Abel" Osundairo became a Chicago Golden Gloves champion with a technical knockout Friday night at a stadium in the Chicago suburb of Cicero. Osundairo won the senior novice division at the 178-pound limit. Police say Osundairo and his brother told investigators in February that the "Empire" actor paid them to help orchestrate a Jan. 29 attack in downtown Chicago because he was unhappy with his pay on the Fox TV show and was looking to promote his career. Police have said the brothers are bodybuilders and aspiring actors who knew Smollett. Their testimony led to criminal charges against Smollett, which were dropped in March. Smollett maintains the attack was real.

Oklahoma governor tries 'American Ninja Warrior' course

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma's new Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt is taking a shot at the "American Ninja Warrior" obstacle course outside the state Capitol in Oklahoma City. Organizers of the reality television show that features high-level athletes racing through grueling obstacles say the 47-year-old ex-CEO is the first governor to give the course a try. Stitt bloodied his elbow completing a rope swing to a landing pad after jumping across a pool of water. A spokeswoman says he finished two of the three obstacles. Filming for the show will continue Friday and Saturday night for the NBC program's 11th season. Other stops this season include Los Angeles, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Seattle. The show qualified for an Oklahoma program that offers a cash rebate of 35% for qualifying production expenditures.

Grime star Stormzy cancels Austria gig on racism allegation

BERLIN (AP) — An Austrian music festival is apologizing to British grime artist Stormzy, who pulled out of an appearance after accusing security staff of racial profiling. Snowbombing festival organizers said security responded Wednesday night to a report that an individual at the show in Mayrhofen had a weapon, and a small number of people, including Stormzy's manager, were searched . Stormzy said on Instagram his friends were "racially profiled, targeted and aggressively handled ... despite no one fitting the description." Stormzy offered his "sincerest apologies" to disappointed fans but said "if these are the drastic steps that I need to take to make a point against racism and racial profiling, then trust me I'm taking it." Snowbombing said Thursday they "wholeheartedly apologize to Stormzy's team" and will take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Easter egg painting tradition alive in Germany

ELSTERHEIDE, Germany (AP)—A small Slavic minority in eastern Germany is keeping alive a long, intricate tradition of hand-painted Easter eggs that's been passed down by Sorbian families for generations.

At an Easter egg market in Elsterheide near the Saxon town of Hoyerswerda, around two dozen egg painters showed off their trade on Sunday.

Werner Zaroba said he learned the craft from his grandparents, remembering how as a child on Good Friday, "we would paint the eggs to give them to our godparents as an Easter present."

Decades later, the elderly man sticks to the tradition. He dips the eggs into a color bath, then using fine knives he scratches delicate patterns on the surface of the eggshell.

Zaroba says it takes him up to seven hours to decorate one egg alone.

AP

Easter eggs present at a traditional Easter Market of Germany's Sorb minority in the village Neuwiese, near the city of Hoyerswerda in east Germany, Sunday, April 14, 2019.

Girl with Asperger's gets little attention from dad

DEAR ABBY: My husband is more interested in hanging out with his friends than caring about our 11-year-old daughter who has Asperger's syndrome. She's a great kid and smart, but she has challenges and needs help. It falls to me to do everything with and for her.

I need him to participate more where she's concerned, but he loses patience with her and with me. He resents having to pay for therapy and music lessons for her (she loves music), but he had no hesitation about buying himself an expensive sports car—not for us but for him. He's actually going away for a weekend with his buddies!

I've thought about marriage counseling, but he isn't interested. I feel overwhelmed and very alone. Please help.

LIKE A SINGLE MOM IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR LIKE A SINGLE MOM: I'll try. Forgive my sarcasm, but it appears you married a real "winner" -- selfish and lacking the compassion and maturity to deal with the challenges your family is facing. Because your husband is unwilling to go with you for marriage counseling, you would benefit from talking to a licensed therapist on your own. When you do, it may give you a broader perspective on what your options are.

DEAR ABBY: Eight years ago, my mother, then age 86, came to live with me. My life has changed substantially in the last two years, and I need to move to another state. My husband already lives there, and I want to be with him. My mother's anxieties and fears are what's holding me back.

I have told her she can live with us there, or at a brand-new assisted living facility that's about to open in the town. Alternatively, she could move back to our hometown where my retired sister lives and stay in an assisted living facility there. Her remaining in this city is not an option because I'm the only person she knows here, and it's eight hours from where I will be.

Conversations with her on this subject are difficult as she prefers to ignore them, choosing only to consider her own needs. Her overall health is manageable, and she's doing well cognitively. She has not been hospitalized in two years. What do I do?

TAKING CARE IN FLORIDA

DEAR TAKING CARE: Continue moving forward with your plans to relocate to be with your husband. Tell your mother you are giving her the choice of whether to reside with you or near your sister, but make clear she must make up her mind because you need to know whether you will have to accommodate her in your new home. Give her a deadline to let you know her preference, but if she refuses, make sure she understands that by default she'll be living near your sister.

DEAR ABBY: My ex and I went to my senior prom. I paid for everything, from the tickets down to his pocket square. It has been two years since the prom and one year since we broke up.

While packing away my prom dress, I realized how great it would be to have the bow tie and pocket square for future wearers as well as for sentimental value. I realize he may have gotten rid of them by now, but would it be wrong to ask for them if he still has them?

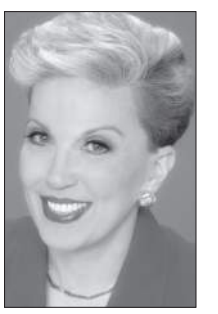
LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD

DEAR LOOKING: Wrong? No. Fruitless? Probably.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

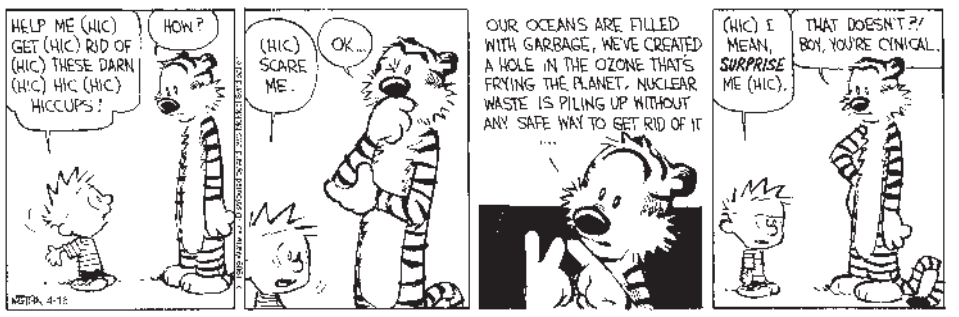


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HELP ME (HIC) GET (HIC) RID OF (HIC) THESE DARN (HIC) HIC (HIC) HICCUPS!
HOW?
(HIC) SCARE ME.
OK...
OUR OCEANS ARE FILLED WITH GARBAGE, WE'VE CREATED A HOLE IN THE OZONE THAT'S FRYING THE PLANET, NUCLEAR WASTE IS PILING UP WITHOUT ANY SAFE WAY TO GET RID OF IT
(HIC) I MEAN, SURPRISE ME (HIC).
THAT DOESN'T PI BOY, YOU'RE CYNICAL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, I HAVE A NEW MAGIC TRICK.
OKAY.
THIS ONE IS GONNA TOTALLY...
OH, WAIT.
WERE YOU DONE WITH THE WHOLE "UFO OUTSIDE THE WINDOW" THING?
IT'S MORE OF AN ONGOING STORYLINE. YOU'RE FINE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M GIVING YOU A TICKET FOR GOING TOO SLOW IN THAT FAST FOOD DRIVE-THRU.
SINCE WHEN IS IT A CRIME TO GO TOO SLOW?!
WHEN I'M THREE CARS BEHIND YOU WAITING TO ORDER MY SPICY CHICKEN SANDWICH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dame Dench
5 Witty one
8 Leer at
12 Western tribe
13 TV pioneer
14 Eye part
15 Dressing ingredient
17 Sugar unit
18 Fill in — blank
19 Conclude
20 Monk's home
21 Droop
22 Bikini top
23 Wan
26 Germ
30 God, in Granada
31 Joke
32 Spoken
33 "You wish!"
35 Pesky insects
36 Chairman of China
37 Grey-hound vehicle
38 Hoopster
41 Dict. info
42 Chi follower
45 Sandwich cookie
46 Fuel-producing area
48 Hindu royal
49 Parisian pal
50 Advertising award
51 Genesis shepherd
52 Service charge
53 Slangy OKs

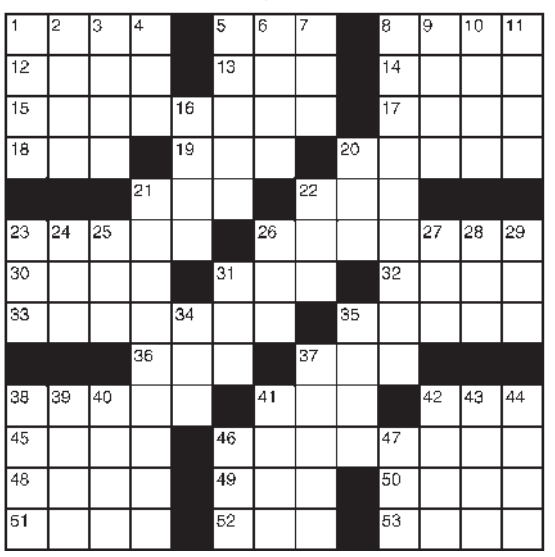
DOWN

1 Equitable
2 Beehive State
3 Take out of context?
4 "This — recording"
5 Incorrect
6 Battery fluid
7 Lass
8 Getty and Rockefeller, e.g.
9 Vittles
10 Margarita garnish
11 Glimpse
16 Campus VIP
20 Lob's path
21 Staple in some Asian recipes
22 Ginormous
23 Do sums
24 Polite address
25 Weed whacker
26 Chess piece
27 — pro nobis
28 Cudgel
29 Overhead trains
31 Sticky stuff
34 Scratch
35 Nonsense
37 Prove untrue
38 Comics' Mrs. Dithers
39 Bedouin
40 Hereditary unit
41 Exemplar of thinness
42 Soccer legend
43 Faux pas
44 Nuptial vows
46 Klutz
47 Glacial

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	A	R			B	I	T		N	O	V	A
B	-	O	B		A	G	E		A	D	A	M
B	O	N	O		G	O	B		V	E	N	T
S	T	A	B	S		R	O	B	E			
			F	U	N		W	I	L	L	O	W
C	O	C	O	N	J	T		B	O	O	N	E
A	P	E	R		B	E	A		R	A	N	
M	I	D	A	S		E	C	U	A	D	O	R
P	E	E	P	E	R		S	S	N			
			P	A	J	L		E	G	Y	P	T
J	A	I	-		S	A	T		E	E	L	Y
O	G	R	E		T	R	I		S	T	E	P
T	O	S	S		Y	A	P		I	D	O	

Yesterday's answer 4-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jon Cryer, 54; Martin Lawrence, 54; Ellen Barkin, 65; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 72.

Happy Birthday: Do your best; no one will be able to complain. Take control and put your heart and soul into everything you do. If you let others push you into arguing instead of solving problems this year, you'll have only yourself to blame. Only share what's necessary when the time is right. Preparation and organization will be mandatory. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 21, 24, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen and use what's said to negotiate on your own behalf. A meeting, business trip or dealing with people in an authoritative position will help you uncover what's possible and what's best left alone. It's up to you to make change happen. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You don't have to spend in order to make an impression. Use your intelligence, experience and ability to persuade others to support your efforts. A budget-friendly idea will be inviting and less stressful. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Anger and aggression aren't the answers. Gather facts before you respond. Getting caught in a senseless disagreement will lead to a missed opportunity. Focus on what's possible and positive, not negativity and unrealistic ventures. Avoid an emotional setback. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's time to tie up loose ends and display what you have to offer. New beginnings, ventures and partnerships look promising and should bring high returns. Home improvements will make your life easier and encourage you to host more events. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be aware of what others are going through before you make a judgment call. Acting on an assumption will put you in an awkward position when faced with the whole truth. Take a closer look at your options, and remain neutral. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A clean break is in your best interest. If your time is tied up arguing or being emotionally manipulated, it will be difficult to take advantage of potential opportunities. Surround yourself with positive people. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Going out with someone you haven't before will be eye-opening. Learn from new experiences. You will find it easier to deal with problems that have been going on for too long. A change will help put your life in perspective. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn as you go. Stretch your mind and reach for the stars. The people you associate with should encourage you, not hold you back or take advantage of your insight or your generosity. Romance is encouraged and will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Your optimism may be your downfall if you are gullible. Ask questions, and be resourceful when it comes to matters that can affect your personal, emotional or financial well-being. Protect against theft, lies and damage to your reputation. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Set the pace, and keep moving until you reach your destination. Your insight and ability to finish what you start will make an impression on someone who can contribute to your success. A partnership can be formed and a contract signed. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't make a fuss. It's best to take care of your responsibilities so you can move on the projects that excite you. Make alterations at home that will prompt you to get back to doing what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share your feelings, and put any emotional problems to rest. Knowing where you stand will help you move forward. A partnership will take a favorable turn that will encourage you to proceed with greater confidence and a solid plan for the future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are secretive, cautious and industrious. You are sensitive and perceptive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			8		7	2	
3					2			1
5		2				9		
	1		6		5			
9								7
			9		4		8	
		1				2		4
4			7					3
	8	7		6			5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	6	8	1	2	7	3	5
5	8	7	3	4	9	1	2	6
2	3	1	6	5	7	9	8	4
3	6	4	5	7	8	2	1	9
8	7	5	2	9	1	4	6	3
1	2	9	4	6	3	8	5	7
7	4	3	1	8	5	6	9	2
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	4	1
6	1	2	9	3	4	5	7	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KRISTOFF ST. JOHN (1966-2019) Solution: 10 letters

E	A	A	R	G	S	D	L	R	E	E	R	A	C	C
M	M	Y	E	N	N	E	N	I	T	R	A	M	H	H
M	E	I	S	U	O	E	I	S	E	L	O	R	A	A
Y	R	N	T	O	I	P	C	A	A	N	I	W	R	M
O	I	E	L	Y	T	S	O	H	S	S	L	O	A	P
U	C	S	E	P	A	T	L	R	T	A	O	H	C	A
T	A	K	S	E	R	D	E	O	E	T	A	S	T	R
H	N	Y	S	T	E	T	P	R	S	P	D	H	E	E
J	U	L	I	A	N	H	T	N	P	R	F	E	R	P
A	R	I	E	I	E	E	L	Y	A	I	E	M	S	O
M	O	M	W	R	G	M	D	W	L	N	O	A	V	P
I	T	A	M	I	A	A	A	M	S	O	N	R	X	A
E	C	F	I	R	Y	S	S	N	R	I	L	Y	X	O
P	A	R	I	S	O	K	A	E	R	B	P	A	O	S
A	N	A	L	L	A	F	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	N

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Actor, Allana, American, Awards, Career, Champ, Characters, Christopher, Daytime, Emmy, Family, Fans, Films, Foxx, Friends, Generations, Get Real, Happy Days, Host, Jamie, Julian, Kseniya, Lola, Maria, Martin, Mia, Moore, NAACP, Nanny, Neil, Nicole, Paris, PETA, Restless, Roles, Roots, Shemar, Show, Soap Break, Soap Opera, Speed, Winters, Young, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Selfless

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD**, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Quality (NDT) Inspector (1)

Conduct NDT (Non Destructive Testing) tests using specific techniques on petroleum tanks, pipelines and marine and other engineered structures. Understand products, equipment set-up, and NDT operations. Follow specific operating procedures. Use safety specifications. Interpret and evaluate test results of special NDE instruments.

Experience of at least 5 years in inspection projects in accordance with API 1104, API 650, API 653, ANSI B31.3, ANSI B31.4, ANSI B31.8, ASME SEC-II, ASME SEC-V, ASME SEC-VIII, AND ASME SEC-IX in petroleum terminals, refineries, pipelines, chemical plants with minimum 2 years in petroleum tank inspection. Inspection reports shall be prepared using computer programs – MS word and Excel or similar.

Qualifications - ASNT LEVEL II in Radiographic Testing (RT), MPI, VT and minimum school diploma and additional technical training and valid certifications, a must. Salary: $10.00 to $13.11/ Hourly, based on experience and qualification.

Interested candidates may send their resume and certifications by email to markm@endeavourinspection.com no later than 04/25/2019

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: GALLUS AMBROS SABLAN REYES (a.k.a. Gallo S. Reyes / Gallus Ambrosio Sablan Delos Reyes), Deceased

Civil Case No. 19-0120

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMNISTRATION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: GALLUS AMBROS SABLAN REYES (a.k.a. Gallo S. Reyes / Gallus Ambrosio Sablan Delos Reyes), DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of JOSEPH CASTRO REYES for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 16th day of May, 2019 at 9:00a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Joseph C. Reyes, P.O. Box 500710, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 483-4258 / 670-234-5860.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, GALLUS AMBROS SABLAN REYES (a.k.a. Gallo S. Reyes / Gallus Ambrosio Sablan Delos Reyes), or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2019

/s/

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Tiger makes Masters his 15th and most improbable major

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

AP
Tiger Woods wears his green jacket holding the winning trophy after the final round for the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods blazing to victory in his Sunday red at the Masters, a scene once so familiar, was never more stunning.

It was only two years ago at Augusta National that Woods needed a nerve block just to hobble upstairs to the Champions Dinner, unsure he would ever play another round of golf. He had a fourth back surgery with hopes of simply playing with his two children, not chasing Jack Nicklaus in history.

And now it's all pieced back together — his life, his back, even golf.

A fallen hero, a crippled star, Woods is a Masters champion again.

He won his fifth green jacket, his 15th major, but never with this much raw emotion. The most ferocious fist pump was when he walked off the 18th green, scooped up 10-year-old son Charlie, and embraced his mother and his 11-year-old daughter Sam.

"For them to see what it's like to have their dad win a major championship, I hope that's something they will never forget," Woods said.

Who can ever forget this day?

"It's hard to really feel bad about how I played because I just witnessed history," said Xander Schauffele, one of three players who finished second. "It was really cool coming down the stretch, all the historic holes, Tiger making the roars. I feel like I got full Masters experience."

The comeback goes beyond the two-shot deficit he erased before a delirious audience that watched memories turn into reality.

It had been 14 years since he last won the Masters — no one had ever gone that long between green jackets. He had gone nearly 11 years since his last major, the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines on a shattered left leg.

This was bigger.

Woods never missed a shot that mattered over the final seven holes, taking the lead with a 5-iron to the fat of the green on the par-5 15th for a two-putt birdie, delivering the knockout with an 8-iron that rode down the ridge by the cup and settled 2 feet away for birdie on the par-3 16th.

He tapped in for bogey and a 2-under 70, and the celebration was on.

"WOOOOOOO!!!" Woods screamed as he headed for the scoring room with chants of "Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!" He had never hugged more people, everyone in his camp who stood by him through a public divorce, an embarrassing mug shot from his DUI arrest when he took a bad mix of painkillers and the four back surgeries, the most recent to fuse his lower spine

"I had serious doubts after what transpired a couple of years ago," Woods said. "I could barely walk. I couldn't sit. Couldn't lay down. I really couldn't do much of anything. ... To have the opportunity to come back like this, it's probably one of the biggest wins I've ever had for sure because of it."

President Donald Trump, who has played with Woods at his Florida course, had two tweets of congratulations. Fenway Park posted the news on the scoreboard.

A comeback for the ages?

It rates among the best because Woods has meant so much to so many in a sport he ruled for so long. Whether he can dominate it again is still to be determined. Woods needed some help to win this Masters. Six players had a share of the lead at some point on the back nine, and there was a five-way tie at the top when the final group was still on the 15th fairway.

"You couldn't have had more drama than we all had out there. And now I know why I'm balding," Woods said. "This stuff is hard."

It didn't look that way when he was younger, healthier and the most popular sporting figure in the world.

Woods lost his impeccable image to a sex scandal, one of the swiftest and most shocking downfalls in sports. He lost his health to back problems. He went two years without even playing a major.

Now the comeback is truly complete. And the race is on.

"A big 'well done' from me to Tiger," Nicklaus tweeted. "I am so happy for him and for the game of golf. This is just fantastic!!!"

Woods now is three short of the gold standard — 18 majors — set by Nicklaus.

"I think 18 is a whole lot closer than people think," Brooks Koepka said.

Joe LaCava, the caddie who stayed with Woods even when he didn't play for the better part of two years, said they have talked about the record.

"We're on 14 and I said, 'Let's get to 15.' You can't be on 14 and thinking about 18," LaCava said. "But now we can start talking about 16. So we're getting closer."

It was the first time Woods won a major when trailing going into the final round. Francesco Molinari, the 54-hole leader, was still up two shots heading into the heart of Amen Corner.

And that's when all hell broke loose.

Molinari's tee shot on the par-3 12th never had a chance, hitting the bank and tumbling into Rae's Creek for double bogey. Until then, Molinari had never trailed in a round that began early in threesomes to finish ahead of storms.

And then it seemed as though practically everyone had a chance, until Woods delivered the key shots at the big moment, just like the old days.

Schauffele failed to birdie the par-5 15th and scrambled for pars the rest of the way for a 68. Dustin Johnson made three straight birdies late in the round, but he got going too late and had to settle for a 68 and a return to No. 1 in the world.

Woods goes to No. 6, his first time inside the top 10 since the 2014 PGA Championship.

Koepka, one of four players from the final two groups who hit into the water on No. 12, rallied with an eagle on the 13th, narrowly missed another eagle on the 15th and was the last player with a chance. His birdie putt on the 18th from just outside 10 feet missed, and he had to settle for a 70.

"You want to play against the best to ever play," Koepka said. "You want to go toe-to-toe with them. I can leave saying I gave it my all. He's just good, man."

Woods finished at 13-under 275 and became, at 43, the oldest Masters champion since Nicklaus won his sixth green jacket at 46 in 1986. That has stood as Augusta's defining moment for years.

This one is sure to at least rival it.

"This is definitely, probably one of the greatest comebacks I think anybody's ever seen," Koepka said.

Koepka and Molinari had both faced Tigermania in the majors and held their own, Molinari at Carnoustie to win the British Open, Koepka last summer at Bellerive to win the PGA Championship. Molinari went 49 straight holes without a bogey, a streak that ended on the seventh hole. It was the double bogeys that cost him, and the Italian was gracious as ever in defeat.

"I think I made a few new fans today with those double bogeys," he said.

Rain fell briefly, but it stayed away long enough for Woods to be presented his green jacket on the practice green, just like old times.

He looked like a new man, making new memories.

"Now I'm able to play golf again, and do it at an elite level again, which is something I'm just very blessed to be able to have that opportunity again," Woods said.

Brain scans may reveal concussion damage in living athletes

Researchers may be closing in on a way to check athletes while they're alive for signs of a degenerative brain disease that's been linked to frequent head blows. Experimental scans found higher levels of an abnormal protein tied to the disease in a study of former National Football League players who were having mood and thinking problems.

It's the first time a major study has tested these scans for detecting chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, which is only diagnosed now after death, with brain autopsies.

Doctors are searching for a way to tell when players, veterans or others with concussions or other head injuries are at risk for permanent damage. It's too soon to know if the scans will enable that — so far they only show that these athletes are different as a group; they can't be used to say a particular player does or does not have CTE.

"We're not there yet," said Boston University neuroscientist Robert Stern. "It is not ready to be used for individual diagnosis in the clinic."

He led the study, published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

"It's an encouraging advance. It looks like they have detected CTE in living players," said Dr. Gil Rabinovici, a neurologist and imaging expert at the University of California, San Francisco, who is doing other research using the scans.

"It's hugely important to be able to detect the disease in living people" to know how common it is and to research treatments, he said.

The study was done in Massachusetts and Arizona and involved 26 former NFL players with thinking, mood or behavior problems, and 31 similarly aged men without these symptoms or head injuries.

They were given positron emission tomography, or PET scans, in which a radioactive tracer is injected that binds to various substances and makes them visible on the scans. Several of these tracers are used now to look for a protein called beta amyloid in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. An experimental tracer that doctors are testing binds to another protein, tau, which is the key one that's been implicated in CTE.

Men in the study had both types of tracers. Tau levels were higher in the players compared to the others, but their amyloid levels were similar, confirming that CTE is a different disease than Alzheimer's. ***(AP)***

Bucks roll past Pistons 121-86 in series opener

AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks during the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Detroit Pistons Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo ran and dunked all over the Pistons until they just shoved him to the ground.

The team with the NBA's best record wanted to show it can make a long playoff run, and the Detroit Pistons were helpless to slow them down.

"I don't know if they were ready for us," Antetokounmpo said. "But we just try to focus on ourselves. We just try to play with pace, run to our spots and try to make plays."

Antetokounmpo had 24 points and 17 rebounds in just 24 minutes, and the Milwaukee Bucks rolled to a 121-86 victory on Sunday night in the opener of their first-round playoff series.

Seven players scored in double figures for the Bucks, who led by as many as 43 points. Their 35-point margin was the third-largest in the franchise's playoff history.

The Pistons only really caught up to Antetokounmpo when center Andre Drummond shoved him to the ground with both hands late in the third quarter, after the MVP candidate grabbed an offensive rebound with Detroit trailing by 41 points.

Drummond was given a flagrant 2 foul and ejected. He blew a kiss to the Fiserv Forum crowd as he was escorted off the court.

"As a team we talked about it, to try to keep our composure whenever the opposing team tries to foul us hard or tries to hit us or play dirty," Antetokounmpo said. "Obviously, I'm not going to look to the referees for protection. I've just got to play smart and try to avoid the situations."

Antetokounmpo was only 5 of 12 on free throws and 1 of 5 from 3-point range, but was 9 for 17 from the field.

Eric Bledsoe had 15 points, and Brook Lopez and Khris Middleton each added 14 for the Bucks. George Hill scored 16 points off the bench.

"We were all over the map defensively and didn't get anything done," coach Dwane Casey said of the Pistons, who allowed 70 first-half points and trailed by 27 at intermission. "We have another level we have to get to with our intensity and physicality, because they're coming through there with balance, Euro-stepping, throwing elbows and stuff like this.

"We have to get our level of competitiveness up to start the game, because you can't spot a great team like this that many points and expect to get back into it."

Luke Kennard paced the Pistons with 21 points off the bench and Drummond had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Reggie Jackson also had 12 points. Detroit played without forward Blake Griffin, who sat out with a left knee injury.

Detroit shot 38% from the field and went 8 of 27 from 3-point distance (29.6.

"I think it was top-notch today," Bledsoe said of the Bucks' defensive performance. "Brook was protecting the paint all night. We were getting steals, playing our game and getting out in transition. We started early so that helped us out."

The Bucks sank 15 3-pointers, just one shy of tying a playoff high, and compiled 31 assists on 44 made field goals.

Drummond got the defensive assignment on Antetokounmpo after Thon Maker got in early foul trouble trying to stop him.

"I have watched that kid since he got drafted so I know his game like the back of my hand," Drummond said. "He is just going to put his head down and keep driving in there. (The plan) is to make him take tough shots, take charges when he does try to bulldog his way in, force him to take 3-point shots, and if we do foul him, foul him as hard as possible."

Griffin was issued a technical foul for protesting Drummond's ejection. Casey said he understood what the referees were doing to keep control of the game but thought a flagrant 1 foul would have been more appropriate.

"I think it was a flagrant but I don't think Andre deserved to be out the rest of the game," Griffin said. "At least that is my opinion in real time."

Casey said he thought Griffin did not deserve a technical.

"What I didn't understand was an official coming over and having a conversation with a player that's not even playing and giving him a technical," Casey said. "It's a hot situation. Walk to the other side of the floor instead of having a conversation."

Griffin said it was frustrating having to watch Game 1 from the sideline.

"I never like to feel like I'm leaving my guys out there," Griffin said. "But I have to do what our organization, our training staff, our doctors think is best, and that is the bottom line."

Rockets 122, Jazz 90

In Houston, James Harden had 29 points and 10 assists to help Houston rout Utah in the opener of a best-of-seven first-round playoff series.

The Rockets had a double-digit lead for most of the game, but the Jazz got within five points midway through the third quarter before Houston used a big run to pull away and sail to the victory.

Houston's starting lineup helped carry the scoring load on Sunday night, with each starter scoring at least 10 points. Eric Gordon had 17, Clint Capela scored 16, Chris Paul added 14 and P.J. Tucker had 11.

Rudy Gobert had 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Jazz. Donovan Mitchell had 19 points, but did not have an assist as the Jazz went long stretches without scoring.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Houston.

Trail Blazers 104, Thunder 99

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard scored 30 points and third-seeded Portland opened its playoff series against No. 6 Oklahoma City with a victory.

Enes Kanter added 20 points and a career playoff-high 18 rebounds for the Blazers, who were making their sixth straight postseason appearance. CJ McCollum added 24 points.

Russell Westbrook had 24 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his ninth career postseason triple-double. Paul George, who was a game-time decision because of a sore shoulder, added 26 points and 10 rebounds after a slow start.

Celtics 84, Pacers 74

In Boston, Kyrie Irving and Marcus Morris each scored 20 points, and Boston rallied in the second half to beat Indiana in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

Jayson Tatum finished with 15 points. Al Horford added 10 points and 11 rebounds, and Gordon Hayward had 10 points. It was the first playoff game since 2017 for Irving and Hayward after each missed last year's postseason with injuries.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Boston.

The Pacers led by 11 points in the first half but had just eight points in the third quarter. The Celtics capitalized and led by as many as 22 in the fourth. Indiana scored 29 points in the second half, and the quarter and half were both its worst of the season.

Cory Joseph had 14 points for the Pacers. Bojan Bogdanovic was the lone Pacers starter in double figures with 12 points.

76ers get blown call on bench in blowout

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—How's this for a blown call: Amir Johnson was busted showing Philadelphia 76ers All-Star teammate Joel Embiid his cellphone on the bench late in a Game 1 playoff loss.

Johnson was caught by TV cameras sitting on the bench and scrolling through his phone late in the fourth quarter and the Sixers losing by double digits. Johnson showed Embiid whatever message was on the phone and then slid the device into his warmup pants pocket.

"I just looked down because he said his daughter was extremely sick and he was checking on her," Embiid said.

The Sixers made the easy call and fined Johnson an unspecified amount for conduct detrimental to the team.

"It's not something that we are about," Sixers coach Brett Brown said.

Johnson, who averaged 3.9 points in 51 games, was inactive and apologized for his mistake.

"I take full responsibility and will accept the consequences of my actions," he said. "I also apologize to my teammates, the 76ers organization and the fans for the distraction this has caused."

Embiid scored 22 points and had 15 rebounds and was a late addition to starting lineup because of tendinitis in his left knee that cost him most of the final month of the season.

The Nets beat the Sixers 111-102 in Game 1 in a game that was a disaster for the organization before the opening tip.

Sixers owner Josh Harris was very noncommittal on Brown's return for a seventh season on the bench if the team did not make a deep run in the playoffs. Harris said Brown was a "great coach" but fell well short of giving him a vote of confidence.

"We think he's the right leader to take us where we need to go in the playoffs," Harris said. "I'm focused on the Brooklyn Nets."

But wait, there were more disasters.

The Sixers trailed by 17, missed 22 of 25 3-pointers and played more like the castoffs of the early Process days under Brown than a team expected to contend for an Eastern Conference championship. Ben Simmons only took nine shots and scored nine points. JJ Redick and Tobias Harris continued the starters' malaise with only a combined four baskets and nine points.

Simmons also blasted the 20,437 Sixers fans for booing the team for most of the game.

"If you're going to boo, then stay on that side," he said.

Embiid said the voracious booing that was largely absent during the dark days of the Sixers 10-win season was tough to hear.

"I love the fans. I've never said anything about them. They show us a lot of love," Embiid said. "I understand why they're booing. But the fact that it's after every single miss when shots are not going to fall (every time). I'm fine. I'll play through anything."

So to recap, the Sixers lost home-court advantage, got caught using a cellphone on the bench, admonished fans for booing and refused to give the head coach a vote of confidence.

And that's a winner in Philly playoff Bingo.

White Sox defeat Yankees, 5-2

AP

Chicago White Sox's Tim Anderson urges his ball over the wall after he hit a grand slam during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium, Sunday, April 14, 2019, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Anderson hit his first career grand slam and Carlos Rodn pitched Chicago over scuffling New York.

José Abreu nearly had a grand slam as well—to almost the same spot in the ballpark—but settled for a sacrifice fly when right fielder Aaron Judge made a jumping catch in front of the wall. Held to one hit Saturday in a 4-0 loss, Chicago chased Masahiro Tanaka (1-1) with nobody out in the fifth and won for only the second time in eight games.

Yoan Moncada had three hits and a walk for the White Sox (5-9), who stole five bases in the last five innings—several of them uncontested. Chicago won two of three to take consecutive series in the Bronx for the first time since 2002-03. Before last August, the White Sox hadn't captured a series at Yankee Stadium since 2005.

Rockies 4, Giants 0

In San Francisco, German Marquez pitched a one-hitter, nicked only by Evan Longoria's single with one out in the eighth inning, and the Colorado Rockies ended an eight-game losing streak by beating the San Francisco Giants 4-0 Sunday.

Marquez (2-1) struck out nine and walked none while throwing 105 pitches in the first complete game in the majors this season. It was the first-ever complete game for Marquez in 156 pro starts, including 69 in the big leagues.

Marquez had allowed just one runner, hitting Kevin Pillar with a pitch to begin the sixth inning, and was in complete control heading into the eighth. Brandon Crawford opened the eighth with a hard, one-hopper that deflected off third baseman Nolan Arenado's glove. Arenado quickly grabbed the ball out of the air and zipped a throw to retire Crawford.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

In Boston, David Price pitched seven stellar innings with seven strikeouts, Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer and drove in every run, and Boston beat Baltimore.

Boston's big starting foursome of Price, Chris Sale, Rick Porcello and Nathan Eovaldi entered Sunday 0-7 with an 8.43 ERA in 11 starts. Price (1-1) responded with clearly their best outing, mixing his mid-90s fastball with a sharp changeup and cutter to allow just three hits without issuing a walk.

Baltimore's Chris Davis went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts a day after ending his record 0-for-54 stretch.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1, 14 innings

In Miami, Jean Segura's two-run homer to left in the 14th inning put Philadelphia on top, and the Phillies beat Miami in the longest game of the young season for either team.

Andrew McCutchen tripled to the wall in left-center, and Segura followed with his first home run of the season. Cesar Hernandez also got his first homer of the season for the Phillies. Brian Anderson hit his second for Miami.

Wei-Yin Chen (0-1) came on to pitch the 14th, was charged with both runs and his ERA actually dipped from 24.75 to 23.40. Chen—the highest-paid Marlins player this season, making $20 million—has allowed 12 runs over three innings of relief in his last two appearances.

Dodgers 7, Brewers 1

In Los Angeles, Ross Stripling tossed eight strong innings to rescue an overworked bullpen, Joc Pederson and Alex Verdugo homered, and Los Angeles routed Milwaukee to snap a six-game skid.

The Dodgers avoided back-to-back sweeps, something they haven't had since 2017 when they last dropped seven games in a row.

Stripling (1-1) earned his first win in his fourth start of the season. The right-hander didn't record his first strikeout until the sixth inning and instead retired 14 of his first 17 batters on flyouts or grounders.

Royals 9, Indians 8

In Kansas City, Mo., pinch-runner extraordinaire Terrance Gore stole a base and then scored on Hunter Dozier's single in the ninth inning, lifting Kansas City over Cleveland to complete a three-game sweep of the AL Central favorites.

Ryan O'Hearn led off the ninth with a walk against Brad Hand (0-1) and was replaced by Gore. The speedster swiped second and advanced to third on a throwing error by catcher Roberto Perez. Dozier then singled to left for Kansas City's first walk-off win of the season.

The Royals roughed up two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber, who allowed 11 of his 18 batters to reach base safely. He gave up six runs, six hits and a career-most five walks in just 2 2/3 innings. The five walks doubled Kluber's season total—he didn't walk more than three batters in any game in 2018.

Cardinals 9, Reds 5

In Monterrey, Mexico, Marcell Ozuna hit two home runs and Matt Carpenter connected for a tiebreaking drive in the seventh inning that sent St. Louis over Cincinnati for a split of their two-game series in Mexico.

Tyler O'Neill also homered for St. Louis. Yasiel Puig hit his first home run for the Reds and Jesse Winker hit his second in two days at Estadio de Beisbol de Monterrey.

The Cardinals saluted the fans after the win and gave away their hats. The Houston Astros and Los Angeles Angels will play twice at this stadium in early May—Major League Baseball has committed to bring regular-season games to Mexico until 2021.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, pinch-hitter Guillermo Heredia homered to cap a five-run burst in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay beat Toronto for its fifth straight series victory to start the season.

Tampa Bay improved to 12-4 and matched the 2010 team for the best 16-game start in club history. The Blue Jays have lost seven of nine and haven't won a series this year.

Blue Jays reliever Thomas Pannone became the 89th different pitcher in big league history to strike out the side on nine pitches. He fanned a swinging Avisail Garcia, then got Brandon Lowe and Daniel Robertson looking in the fifth.

Pirates 4, Nationals 3

In Washington, rookie Jason Martin hit a tiebreaking double in the top of the ninth inning against Washington's shaky bullpen, then Felipe Vzquez escaped a bases-loaded jam Pittsburgh a win.

The Pirates took two of three and won a series at Nationals Park for the first time since 2013. Josh Bell drew a leadoff walk in the ninth from Wander Suero (1-1) and moved to second on Colin Moran's grounder. With two outs, Martin hit a ground-rule double to left for his second major league RBI.

The Nationals loaded the bases in the bottom half on a single, walk and Adam Eaton's bunt single with one out. Vzquez (1-0) struck out Howie Kendrick and retired Anthony Rendon on a flyball to end it.

Twins 6, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, Jose Berrios (2-1) pitched into the seventh inning for his first win since opening day, Trevor Hildenberger struck out two with the bases loaded for his first save and Minnesota beat Detroit to complete a two-game sweep.

C.J. Cron homered and drove in three, and Eddie Rosario was a triple short of the cycle for the Twins, who have won three of four.

In his shortest outing of the season, Jordan Zimmermann (0-2) lasted three innings and allowed five runs and eight hits with one strikeout.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 4

In Phoenix, Zack Greinke pitched seven strong innings and helped himself with two hits, pinch-hitter David Peralta connected for a three-run homer and Arizona beat San Diego to stop a four-game losing streak.

Greinke (2-1) allowed two runs and four hits with six strikeouts. He won despite surrendering his seventh and eighth home runs of the season. Ketel Marte and Christian Walker also homered for the Diamondbacks.

Manuel Margot led off the game with a home run and Fernando Tatis Jr. also connected for NL West-leading San Diego. The Padres had won four in a row. San Diego starter Eric Lauer (2-2) gave up three runs on eight hits over five innings.

Astros 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Jose Altuve is as baffled as everyone else about his recent power surge.

Altuve and Yuli Gurriel hit grand slams as the Houston Astros beat the Seattle Mariners 10-6 Friday night for their major league-leading seventh straight victory.

Altuve doesn't know what's different, and he's even been self-scouting, studying video of his suddenly mammoth swing. He sees no difference between this week and last.

"You want to know what you're doing good because when you start not hitting the ball very good you want to come right back to that," Altuve said. "But I feel like I'm doing the same thing. I would say I'm getting good pitches to hit."

And lots of them.

Altuve's grand slam in the sixth inning extended a career-best streak of consecutive games with a home run to four. He had four homers in the Astros' previous three-game series sweep of the Yankees and now has six on the season.

Braves 7, Mets 3

In Atlanta, Jacob deGrom is giving up home runs and struggling with his control at the moment.

Even the ace right-hander isn't exactly sure what's going on.

DeGrom had another tough start Sunday night, and the New York Mets lost 7-3 to Julio Teheran and the Atlanta Braves.

"I'm not really throwing the ball where I want to right now," deGrom said. "Kind of cutting the fastball, yanking the slider, changeup is good at times but at other times it's not. I don't know if it's something mechanical. I'll have to get in there and figure it out."

Josh Donaldson and Nick Markakis homered as Atlanta won for the fifth time in its last seven games. Markakis and Donaldson also connected during Saturday's 11-7 victory over New York.

Athletics 8, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Texas, Oakland slugger Khris Davis keeps going deep in Texas, and just about everywhere else he plays.

"A big shocking event. Khris hit a go-ahead home run here," Athletics manager Bob Melvin said.

Davis' major league-best 10th homer, his fifth in three games, was a tiebreaking solo shot in the eighth inning for the A's, who rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the Rangers 8-6 on Friday night.

"Same as always. I look for the first good one and put a good swing on it," Davis said.

After consecutive two-homer games in Baltimore, Davis was 0 for 3 with a fielder's choice RBI before his one-out 426-foot shot to center in the eighth off Chris Martin (0-1) that made it 7-6.

FIFA head wants refs to end soccer games if racism persists

By CIARAN FAHEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has called for a crackdown on racism at soccer games after several high-profile incidents, and encouraged referees to abandon matches in the worst cases.

"We will not hesitate to do everything in our power to eradicate racism, and any other form of discrimination, from football, at any level and anywhere in the world," the head of world soccer's governing body said in a statement on Saturday.

Infantino referred to the "three-step procedure" at tournaments, a measure that was brought in at the 2017 Confederations Cup and which allows a referee to stop a game, suspend a game and ultimately abandon a game if discriminatory behavior persists.

"FIFA urges all member associations, leagues, clubs and disciplinary bodies to adopt the same procedure, as well as a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of racism in football, and to apply harsh sanctions for any such kind of behavior," Infantino said. "Racism has no place in football, just as it has no place in society either."

Infantino's intervention comes one day after Amiens' French league game at Dijon was temporarily halted after the visiting side's captain Prince Gouano was subjected to racist insults.

"I heard monkey noises," said Gouano, who asked the referee to stop the game. The French league said the alleged perpetrator was subsequently identified and arrested.

FIFA says it fully supports Gouano, as well as players such as Kalidou Koulibaly, Raheem Sterling and Danny Rose, who were also subjected to racist abuse.

Tottenham defender Rose went so far as to say he was looking forward to retiring from the game in the future because of ongoing racism and a lack of action from authorities.

Rose was among England players targeted with monkey chants in Montenegro last month while playing in a European Championship qualifier.

"In recent days, it has been very sad to see a number of racist incidents in football," Infantino said. "This is really not acceptable."

FIFA disbanded its anti-racism task force early in Infantino's presidency in 2016, saying it had "completely fulfilled its temporary mission."

Later Saturday, Premier League club West Ham said it will ban any fans who were filmed chanting anti-Semitic abuse about rival Tottenham ahead of West Ham's game at Manchester United.

West Ham said it was "disgusted" by the video circulating on Twitter.

AP

Rogerio Caboclo, newly-elected Brazilian soccer confederation president, left, shakes hands with FIFA President Gianni Infantino, as they arrive at the Planalto Presidential Palace to meet with President Jair Bolsonaro, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Djokovic eyes French Open final against Nadal as clay begins

MONACO (AP)—As Novak Djokovic begins his preparations for a fourth straight Grand Slam title, he likes to imagine beating Rafael Nadal in the French Open final.

"That would be the match of the season, yes," Djokovic said Sunday at the Monte Carlo Masters. Djokovic and his longtime rival Nadal are starting their clay-court seasons this week at Monte Carlo, their first tuneup on clay ahead of the May 26-June 9 French Open in Paris, and which could see them meet for a 54th time if they reach the final.

Toppling Nadal at Roland Garros, where the Spaniard is the defending champion and a record 11-time winner, is what Djokovic really wants.

It's something Djokovic considers "one of the ultimate challenges of the sport" — much like facing Roger Federer during his grass-court prime at Wimbledon. They are the three most successful players in Grand Slam history: Federer has won a record 20 majors, Nadal 17 and Djokovic is catching them up with 15.

The top-ranked Djokovic has won the past three majors in straight sets, including a stunning rout of Nadal in the Australian Open final this year. He also has a 28-25 winning record against Nadal — a considerable achievement in itself.

Yet despite all the positive points stacked up, he considers Nadal a different and much more dangerous opponent at this stage of the season.

"I think Rafa is always a very clear favorite on any clay court in the world, and it doesn't change," Djokovic said. "He's still there. I mean (it) obviously depends how he's feeling physically. I have seen him (training) here, he's been here a few days. Seems like he's fine."

Djokovic referred to Nadal's troublesome right knee, which flared up again last month and forced the second-ranked Nadal to pull out of his eagerly-awaited semifinal against Federer at Indian Wells.

LITTLE

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closing job.

MINOR DIVISION
NSA Braves 15, Kagman Marlins 5

The NSA Braves were on target right in the first inning for another easy victory in the second week of the competition.

The Braves, who routed the Blue Jays in their season debut, 15-1, scored seven runs at the bottom of the first inning of their match versus the defending champions Marlins to set the tone of the game. Leadoff batter Damian Marchadesh kicked things off for the Braves, as he reached off a passed ball from Nate Seman. The Braves went on to get four more runs off passed balls, while Mike Taitano had an RBI single and also scored on a Marlins' error.

After giving up seven early runs, the Marlins remained in contention, as they logged four runs at the top of the first. However, that was the best that the reigning champs could do, as Braves pitcher Alden Magofna found his rhythm and allowed only one hit in the last three innings and an unearned run (Kyle Laniyo) at the top of the fourth and last inning. The Braves pitcher finished the match with seven strikeouts and got two runs.

The rest of the Braves' defense also picked up in the final three innings after committing miscues in the first to close out the match after only three and a half innings. The Braves delivered six runs at the bottom of the third to press the Marlins to score at least 11 runs to continue the game. Minor division matches are only four innings.

AGAPE

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final frame.

With the game in ACS' control, the team's reserves came to play and finished off Mt. Carmel. Samuel He scored 8 points, while Jordan Miao, Caleb Dai, and Hilton Jin also made baskets in the fourth canto. The Knights, on the other hand, still struggled n the end game with only Charles Cepeda scoring for the squad,

Agape's convincing victory in the boys division game gave the team a sweep last weekend, as it earlier won in the girls match, 25-14.

After failing to hit the board in the second quarter and facing a 7-8 halftime deficit, Agape played better in the second half, outgunning the Lady Knights, 18-6. Mt. Carmel lost the shaky lead at the break, as it was held scoreless in the third period.

Jenny Lin, Mei Ou, Shuo Yang led Agape's balance attack after recording10, 7, and 6 points, respectively. Kaithlynn Chavez, on the other hand, accounted for 12 of the Knights' total output.

With the win, Agape now holds a 2-0 record, while the Mt. Carmel fell to a 1-2 mark.

Meanwhile, Saipan Community School bagged its first victory in four matches after routing Northern Marianas International School, 44-8.

The Tsunamis' consistent effort on the defensive end was the key factor in their victory, as they held the Phoenix scoreless in the second and third quarters. NMIS absorbed its third straight defeat after winning its season debut.

On offense, Charlie McDonald top-scored for SCS with his 26 points, while Isaiah Aleksenko added14 markers.

Girls Game

ACS 25—Lin 10, Ou 7, Zhao 6, Wang 2.

MCS 14—Chavez 12, Pathil 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-6, 7-8, 15-8, 25-14.

Boys Games

ACS 54—Tang 16, He 8, Bao 7, Li 7, Liang 4, Miao 4, Zheng 3, Dai 2, Jin 2, Chen 1.

MCS 14—Borja 4, Naraja 4, Cepeda 2, San Nicolas 2, Sasamoto 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-6, 27-10, 37-12, 54-14.

SCS 44 —McDonald 26, Aleksenko 14, Timmons 4.

NMIS 8—Valdoz 6, Mateo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 4-6, 18-6, 26-6, 44-8.

PODIUM

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last weekend's event.

Husband and wife Travis and Robyn Spaeth, along with Brad and Kathy and Ruszala competed in the half marathon, while Heather Taylor joined the marathon.

Taylor was entered in the women's 30 to 39 age group and finished second in the division after checking in at 3:35:39. She was No. 4 out of the 135 female finishers and No. 28 out of nearly 500 finishers. Kris Lawrence (3:11:31) ruled the age group, while Tomomi Sawahata (3:01:18) and Yoshiki Nakamura (2:32:31) took the top overall honors in the women's and men's divisions, respectively.

In the half marathon, Travis had the fastest time among Saipan runners after breaking the two-hour barrier, as he posted 1:56:18. He came in at No. 25 in the men's 30 to 39 age group and No. 71 among the 427 female finishers in his division. Travis' wife, Robyn, also raced in the 30 to 39 age group and was ranked No. 22 in her category after recording 2:08:54.

Just less than three minutes behind Robyn was Kathy, who timed in at 2:11:38 to finish No. 26 in the same age group, while the latter's husband, Brad, registered 2:51:21 in the men's 40 to 49 division. Rieko Koshi (1:29:22) topped the women's field (406 runners), while Takumi Hasube (1:12:00) was the overall winner in the 427-runners men's division.

Last Sunday's Guam Marathon, which also featured a 5K event, drew a record of more than 4,000 runners.

Tiger makes Masters his 15th and most improbable major
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Sports

Bucks roll past Pistons 121-86 in series opener
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Little Legals notch second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kagman Little Legals recovered from a rough start to beat McDonald's, 5-2, during their Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Little Legals were without a run in the first three innings before making it to the board with a four-run top of the fourth. They added one more in the fifth and then finished off McDonald's in the sixth and last inning with relief pitcher Austin Diaz getting the third strike for the third out with the bases loaded.

Starting pitcher Albert Adriano broke the Little Legals' silence when he singled, advanced to second and third off McDonald's errors, and stole home. Ryan Dela Cruz made it a 3-0 lead with a two-run double and he also reached off a RBI walk from Brandon Babauta to lift the Little Legals to a 4-0 advantage.

The defending champions increased the lead to a 5-0, courtesy of Diaz' RBI single at the top of the fifth inning, while McDonald's still could not end its dry spell at the bottom.

A 1-2-3 at the top of the sixth inning gave McDonald's the final chance to mount a comeback and it seemed it is headed for one with Kazu Dela Cruz's double driving Dillon Santos home. Dela Cruz then handed McDonald's its second run, as he reached off Lance Acosta sacrifice's out.

With two outs and runners on second and third, McDonald's loaded the bases and boosted its bid for a late rally after Diaz walked Champ Aldan. Next up to bat was Jordan Agulto and he came up with an empty swing for the first strike before letting go off a high pitch to stay ahead. The McDonald's batter then hit a foul ball for the second strike, while Diaz caught him looking in the next pitch, giving the Little Legals their second win in as many games.

Adriano worked the mound for 5.2 innings, gave up five hits and fanned eight batters. Diaz struck out two batters and threw a no-hitter in a good

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Little Legals' Austin Diaz throws to McDonald's batter M.J. Tudela during the bottom of the sixth inning of their Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Agape sweeps Mt. Carmel

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's Eason Tang pulls up for a jumper against a Saipan Community School defender during an earlier middle school game in the CCOPSA caging at the Agape court. The Torchbearers are unbeaten in four matches.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School extended its winning streak to four after cruising to a 54-14 victory over Mt. Carmel School in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League last Friday at ACS basketball court.

After clinging to a 4-point lead at the end of the first period, 10-6, the Torchbearers went on a blistering 17-4 scoring run in the second canto to gain firm control of the match, 27-10. Despite the big lead, Agape didn't relent in the second half, especially on the defensive end, as it held the Knights to 4 points to deal MCS its first loss in four games,

Eason Tag led Agape's breakaway in the second period, as he fired 8 points and finished the half with 12. Antonio Lee, David Zheng, and Tony Liang also contributed for the Torchbearers in the pivotal second period, while Leo Naraja registered all of Mt. Carmel's 4 points in that quarter, as no other Knights came to his aid.

The Knights were almost held scoreless when action resumed with only O'hane Borja making a deuce for MCS in the third canto. In contrast, Tang, Bao, and Li teamed up for Agape, as they increased the team's lead to 25, 37-12, heading into the

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Podium finish for mother and daughter

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Lydia and Tania Tan, Heather Taylor, Travis and Robyn Spaeth, and Kathy and Brad Ruszala pose for a group photo after completing their respective races in last Sunday's Guam Marathon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mother and daughter Lydia and Tania Tan made it to the Top 3 of the 10K event of the 2019 Guam Marathon held last Sunday.

Lydia finished second in the 50 to 59 age group after completing the race from the Gov. Joseph Flores Memorial Park in Ypao Beach in Tumon past the Alupang Beach Tower in Tamuning at the Trinchera Beach Park and back in 54:11 (gun time). She was one of the only two runners in her age group to round out the course in under an hour. The other one was age group champion Yumiko Hansen, who clocked in at 46:27. Seventy-four runners entered the women's 50 to 59 age group.

In the women's 14 to 19 age group, Tania was ranked third with a time of 49:12. She was No. 9 out of the 419 female finishers and No. 34 out of the 836 runners that completed the 10K. Shakeera Esma and Mya Tolerson placed first and second in the division with times of 44:36 and 47:21, respectively, while Japanese Hikaru Kumagai (31:53) and Guam's Rhea Macaluso (44:32) were the overall finishers in the men's and women's divisions.

Meanwhile, five other Saipan runners also raced in

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